A

# NARRATIVE

OF

# THE EXPEDITION TO HOLLAND,

IN THE

*AUTUMN OF THE YEAR* 1799.

ILLUSTRATED WITH

A MAP OF NORTH HOLLAND,

*AND SEVEN VIEWS*

OF THE PRINCIPAL PLACES OCCUPIED BY THE BRITISH FORCES.

BY

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# ADVERTISEMENT.

THE late expedition to Holland naturally excited a very lively interest in the public mind during its progress, and no small share of inquisitive curiosity respecting its final issue. The author of the following Narrative, however, cannot promise that he has been enabled completely to gratify this curiosity;—in truth, he has no pretensions whatsoever to boast of extraordinary information, derived from high authorities, or from any particular authenticated documents, other than those which have been already published, and which will be found collected in the Appendix.

This work, indeed, is nothing more than a journal, a little altered, so as to admit an account of various transactions and incidents connected with the subject, but which could not possibly altogether fall under the daily observance of any single person.

From this candid avowal, it will not be expected that the publicatior can be totally free from errors and mis-statements. For any such, the au thor must deem himself responsible; but he expects and hopes they be found neither numerous nor important.

The various situations in which the author was placed, while land, presented him with many obvious and favourable occasior mark, of which he was not unmindful to avail himself. He was the foremost of those who landed in the country, and among the left it.

History has been but too justly censured, for betraying rather the opinions of the writer, than giving a true and unprejudiced detail of incidents; and the truth of the annals of mankind is more frequently trusted to the naked chronological series of events than to the historic page. If this remark be applicable to former celebrated historians, who have treated of subjects remote in time and of foreign relation, with how much more propriety will it apply to those who treat of contemporary and domestic concerns, at a period in which party is bigoted, and opinion is despotic?

The author, aware of this capital failing, has endeavoured to clothe his narrative in the simplest colouring, as free from any prevailing or partial tints, as far as his judgment would permit. He professes to have no cause to serve but that of Truth,—no interests to promote but those of Justice.

The Map of North Holland, prefixed to the work, was reduced from a Dutch map on a large scale, in which the topographical situations of towns, villages, dykes, and canals, were laid down from actual measurement; but to avoid the confusion which would ensue from crowding such a number of parts in such contracted limits, the principal of these only have been retained.

The views were all sketched on the spot; and, besides being illus- ... of the work, they are recommended by their novelty; inasmuch ... n Holland is one of the very few countries on the continent of ... which have hitherto escaped the researches of the tourist.

# INTRODUCTION.

NATIONS, like individuals, are frequently indebted for their characters to local situations, first impressions, and early habits. The insulated flat lands, forming the *delta* of the Rhine, were originally colonised by a German tribe, called the *Battæ*; and thence their new country was named *Batavia*.

Amongst the many free and courageous nations that peopled the north of Europe, the Batavians were remarkable for their courage and their love of freedom; and when all Germany at length submitted to the superior discipline of the Roman arms, these civilising conquerors distinguished the Batavians above all the rest, by leaving them in full possession of their laws and customs, and requiring only military service. This service was cheerfully and ably performed. The eminent good conduct and singular bravery of the Batavia[n le]gions contributed to prop the declining empire, and for a lon[g time] retarded its fall.

The feudal power rose on the ruins of Rome: even un[der this] slavish and oppressive system of government, the Batavians p[reserved] a comparative portion of freedom. Their chiefs, or coun[ts]

to have been actuated by far more generous and liberal notions than those which prevailed, at that time, on the continent of Europe; and the Batavian people themselves, from the very beginning of their political existence, turned their attention to commercial pursuits; to which they were impelled, as much by the love of liberty and independence which commerce inspires, as by the physical situation of their country.

In 1477, the government of the Low Countries devolved to the House of Austria, in consequence of the marriage of the emperor Maximilian with the heiress of Burgundy, who was countess of Holland, and had the Netherlands for her dowry; and in 1555, the sovereignty was resigned by the emperor Charles V. in favour of his son, Philip II. of Spain.

The ever-memorable resistance to the coercive measures of that cruel and bigotted tyrant laid the foundation of the republic of the Seven United Provinces. Great military talents, discipline, and perseverance, were opposed by heroic courage, and the enthusiasm of liberty. Murders, massacres, public executions, and private assassinations of characters pre-eminent for rank, virtue, and abilities, toge- with repeated violations of public faith and honour,—all these means were employed in aid of the fair appeal of arms, to sub- a people who were resolved not to survive the loss of their es.

worthy of remark, that the first effectual resistance to the ss of the Spanish arms was made by the people of North Hol-

land. The city of Haarlem sustained a siege of eight months, that has few parallels in history. Reduced at length, by every privation, to the last extremity, it was compelled to submit on terms of capitulation, which, however, were basely broken by that execrable executioner of merciless tyranny, the duke of Alva, who gave up the town to pillage, and its brave inhabitants to indiscriminate slaughter. —Alkmaar was more fortunate than Haarlem; for, after having made several desperate assaults, and kept the trenches open for three months, the Spaniards were forced to raise the seige with great loss.

But other causes contributed, with the undaunted courage and fortitude of the inhabitants, to establish the independence of the Seven United Provinces. The reformation, pushed on in the ardour of inquiry to the very verge of fanaticism, by the impetuous Calvin, found a congenial spirit in the Hollanders, and confirmed their natural habits of freedom; for it is generally allowed that the Calvinistic tenets are more favourable to republicanism than those of any other sect.—To the rejection, therefore, of the reformation by the ten provinces of the Low Countries, and to its reception by the other seven, may be ascribed the success of the one and the failure of the other, in their respective efforts to shake off the Spanish yoke. But all these causes combined, though supported by the talents and virtues of illustrious patriot William I. prince of Orange, must have beer mately ineffectual against the gigantic power and immense res of Spain, had not his exertions been countenanced and aided b of the wisest, most beneficent, and most powerful sovereign ever swayed a sceptre,—Henry the Fourth of France, and Elizabeth of England.

The independence of the Seven United Provinces having been at length conceded by Philip III. of Spain in the year 1609, and, at the same time, acknowledged by all the governments of Europe, the republic forthwith began to acquire the most rapid accessions of political strength and population, in consequence of the general persecution of the protestants, in almost every country, where the Roman-catholic faith was the religion of the state. By the revocation of the edict of Nantes, the wealthiest, most industrious, and most enlightened of the persecuted people of France fled into Holland, which they suddenly enriched with their property, ingenuity, and experience. Hence, perhaps, may be deduced the predelictions of the Hollanders for the French, in preference to any other nation. But it was chiefly on the ruin of the Netherlands that the Dutch republic rose to the zenith of power and prosperity. Antwerp, once the emporium of Europe, saw her commerce transferred from the spacious, navigable, and commodious Scheld, to the intricate channels and dangerous shoals of the Zuider Zee; whilst the trade and manufactures of Bruges and Ghent were transplanted to Leyden, Middleburg, and Rotterdam. From the south of Europe too, that unfortunate race, heretofore the devoted victims of persecution, the Jews, found at last their long-sought asylum in Holland, to which, in return, they imported ...nense wealth, and their own peculiar habits of œconomy and ...

...he treaty of union, signed at Utrecht in the year 1579, was the ...upon which was erected the irregular but substantial fabric of ...nstitution of the United Provinces. Conformably to the tenor ...s treaty, each province preserved its laws and customs, its ma-

gistrates, sovereignty and independence. But, besides the provinces, the principal cities, to the number of fifty-six, retained their own interior governments; so that, in reality, each city was itself a republic, pursuing its distinct interests, and being governed by its own magistrates and municipal laws.

The constitutions of the provincial states, which, collectively considered, formed the vital principle of the whole political body, differed more or less from each other.

The province of Holland, which, in wealth, population, and political importance equals all the rest, sent nineteen deputies to the general provincial assemblage. The first deputy represented the nobles of the province, the eighteen others as many cities; for, although this flourishing province contains thirty-seven cities, amongst which may be reckoned the Hague, yet only eighteen were invested with the right of deputing representatives; and of these, the Hague itself, the seat of government, was not one; nor had Amsterdam, with its immense population and commerce, and its vast contributions to the public expenditure, more weight or authority in the general repr sentation, so far as regarded its vote, than the little obscure cit Purmerend.

The constitutions of Guelderland, Utrecht, and Zealan considerably differ from that of Holland. In Zealand th had become extinct. Guelderland and Utrecht, partakir customs and manners of the neighbouring circle of West tained longest the remnants of feudality, and supported

reditary but indigent nobles. In the former, the nobles who possessed baronial manors formed half the states, the other half being composed of representatives of the cities; and, in Utrecht, eight deputies of the clergy had seats in the provincial representation; but these representatives of the church were laymen, who possessed the revenues that formerly belonged to the five chapters of the province.

In the country parts of the provinces of Over-Yssel and Groningen the people had a share in the elections, but the government of the towns was aristocratical.

The constitution of Friesland, however, differed materially from all the rest. In this province there never was any nobility. The representation consisted of four members; one for the cities, and three for the country. The country was divided into cantonments or bailiwicks, in which every individual, possessing so many acres of landed property, acquired the right of voting for a representative. The electors, therefore, were composed of all descriptions, peasants, rghers, citizens, and gentlemen. In fine, the rights of election in iesland seem not to have been different from those of England. Sir William Temple alleges, that this province was the parent, of the language of England, to which its dialect is similar at but of its customs, laws, and constitution. East Friesland wn stadtholder, until it was incorporated with the other prounder the stadtholderate of William the Fourth.

ileges and interests of the provinces were the prime ob-

jects of provincial representation; but their union was collectively represented by a more dignified assembly, called *the States-General.* The states-general were composed of delegates from every province; but though each province had the right of sending as many as it chose, yet, on the ultimate decision of a measure, there was but one vote for each province.

The states-general bore the exterior marks of sovereignty, but it was not the sovereign power of the republic; that power was really vested in the provincial states, who alone could enact laws, make war and peace, levy taxes, raise soldiers, and nominate the greater number of the highest offices, civil and military. The states-general had the sole prerogative of appointing commanders of the fleet.

The last branch of this singularly constructed commonwealth was the council of state and the stadtholder. The council of state, like the other assemblies, was formed of deputies of provinces: the deputation, however, was more equally divided; Utrecht, Over-Yssel, and Groningen, sent each one deputy; Guelderland, Zealand, and Friesland, two each; and the province of Holland sent three. Th stadtholder had likewise a seat and vote in this council.

The office of stadtholder, which had no resemblance of an chief-magistracy in the world, requires more particular conside The stadtholder was an officer of state peculiar to the Low Cou and existed there long before the union and independence of th United Provinces. This magistrate was then only the dep vernor of a province, acting with delegated power under the

duke who was the sovereign. William the First, prince of Orange, was invested with the magistracy by his liege lord Philip the Second: afterwards, when, by the virtue and talents of William and his son Maurice, the Dutch were enabled to emancipate themselves from the Spanish yoke, they established the office in the House of Orange. It is not very evident, that the stadtholderate was, at first, intended to be either perpetual or hereditary: it appears rather to have been an occasional power, created on grand emergencies, like the dictatorship of ancient Rome. Indeed the republic seems to have dispensed with this office, without any apparent violation of the constitution, at one time, for twenty-two years; and again, on the elevation of William III. to the throne of Great Britain, for a period of forty-five years.

But the necessity of a chief magistrate to connect and consolidate a constitution, composed of such various materials, is sufficiently apparent, and was fully admitted by the states themselves in the preamble to the instrument by which they conferred their first authority on the prince of Orange. It sets forth, "That all republics and "communities ought to preserve, maintain, and fortify themselves "by unanimity, which being impossible to be kept up always by so any members often differing in inclination and sentiments, it is sequently necessary that the government should be placed in single chief magistrate," &c.

the great national concerns of peace and war, alliances and tax- he stadtholder had only a single voice in the council of state. e other hand, he was hereditary captain-general of the army,

and high-admiral of the navy of the republic, with the appointment of army commissions, up to a colonel, inclusive. In the provinces of Utrecht, Guelderland, and Over-Yssel, he might change and augment at pleasure the several members of the state; but, in the four remaining provinces, he could only nominate the magistrates from amongst a number that had been previously elected. Finally, the stadtholder was allowed, by the constitution, to judge and advise respecting the affairs of the united republic, and to interpose his authority in any disputes that might arise amongst the cities and provinces, from local interests, or a misconstruction of the fundamental articles of the union. In the year 1749, the power of the stadtholder was augmented, and his prerogatives and office better defined. He was created governor-general and supreme director of the East and West-India Companies, by which he obtained a great accession of influence and patronage.

From a government thus constructed, it is not difficult to account for the indecision and ruinous delays that impeded its operations, and frequently rendered its measures null and abortive. Before a measure could be put in execution, the proceedings on it were obliged to be transmitted to the particular states of the provinces: by them they were sent to be examined by their respective constituents; they w[illegible] then to be returned to their provincial states, and thence to their s[illegible] general: where, after all this precaution, if the affair in que[illegible] were of primary concern that related to the united republic, it [illegible] necessary that it should be carried unanimously; for it was lost [illegible] single dissentient voice.

Nevertheless, such a consitution seemed admirably adapted to the nature of the country, and the character of the people. It was the true interests of the Dutch to be at peace with their neighbours; whatever were the means that might procrastinate a declaration of war were, for them, salutary. On the other hand, when their interests compelled them to wage war, as it was necessarily an unanimous measure, no nation on earth has carried it on with more pertinacious constancy and courage; qualities, which their enemies, with a view of lessening them, have been accustomed to term *obstinacy*. For nearly two centuries the Dutch have maintained themselves in an unprecedented continuance of political happiness and national prosperity. At one period they were indisputably the first maritime power in the world. They terrified the navies of Spain and Portugal within their own ports. They successfully combated the combined fleets of France and England. They wrested from the English the sovereignty of the ocean. They colonised the West, and monopolised the East. Whilst they carried their triumphant flag from Nova Zembla to Cape Horn, and from the British Isles to those of Japan.

It may be useful, and cannot be uninteresting, to trace the causes of ...eir present misery and degradation, as it may tend to justify the ...ts of the British government in its attempt to restore that form ...onstitution, under which they had so long and so greatly pro-...ed.

...otwithstanding the limited power and moderate privileges an-

nexed to the stadtholderate, that office of the state was, at all times, regarded by the aristocracy with jealousy and distrust. On the other hand, the army and navy, from principle and affection, were attached to the House of Orange; and the people, for a long period, in the history of the United Provinces, inclined to its interests; so much so, indeed, that their sudden, powerful, but unwarrantable interference, in two important instances, restored the stadtholderate, which in both had been abolished by the predominant power of the aristocracy.

Thus a political schism was engendered in the bosom of the state, which, more than once, nearly effected its ruin: and thus it was, that the same causes, which, by a steady and gradual progress, established a third estate in the constitution of England, produced a similar effect in Holland. The people, who hitherto had no share in the constitution, began to find they possessed some weight, as their favour and support were assiduously cultivated, at the same time, by the cabinet of the Hague, and the provincial aristocracies.

But a prime cause of the misfortunes of the republic was the unaccountable partiality the Dutch had shown, on all occasions, [illegible] political connexions with France, in preference to England; u[illegible] countable on any other score than that of commercial jealousy[illegible] national rivalry; inasmuch as the United Provinces are indeb[illegible] England not only for their original independence and subse[illegible] prosperity, but for her unremitting friendship and protection t[illegible] serve them in that state.

Although the English influence predominated in Holland, on the restoration of William the Fourth to the stadtholderate, in the year 1748, yet, by the death of that prince, and a long minority succeeding, the French party once more gained the ascendency; so that, on the breaking out of the American war, the measures which the Dutch republic pursued, on that momentous event, were unfriendly, if not openly hostile, to Great Britain. It eagerly embraced the scheme of the armed neutrality; and, under its sanction, supplied the enemies of England with the materials of warfare. Thus a rupture between two powers, whose political views and interests ought for ever to be inseparable, became unavoidable. The ruinous consequences of that war continued after the general peace, and gave a fatal blow to a constitution, that for two centuries had surmounted such formidable obstacles, and secured such unparalleled prosperity to a people. On the plea that the stadtholder had sacrificed the interests of his country to his connexions with the court of St. James, and his partiality for the English nation, the republican party proceeded to entrench upon his constitutional prerogatives. As captain-general of the land forces, the army, not less from duty than affection, were attached to his cause. Of this post he was deprived; and, under the pretext of strengthening the military forces of the republic ...inst the unjust proceedings of the emperor, relative to his claims ...e Scheld, but, in reality, to oppose the troops in the prince's ...sts, a new volunteer army was suddenly created, raised from ... the citizens and burghers throughout all the cities, towns, and ...es of the seven provinces.

... new armed power soon discovered its own strength. The

success of the Americans, in breaking the ties of connexion with their old government, loosened those of all others. A vigorous and aspiring democracy was, at once, established in Holland, whose claims and pretensions were now reluctantly admitted by the aristocratic party, not only from an inability to refuse them, but from a combination of interests in one grand object, that of abrogating the stadtholderate. In most of the cities and provinces, therefore, delegates, chosen by the people, were elected into the provincial states; in some of which they reckoned upon a majority of democratic members. At this critical conjuncture, the stadtholderians were not depressed or inactive; they had secured the army and navy; but their chief dependence was on the support of England and Prussia, whilst the hopes of their adversaries, on the protection and assistance of France, were less probably founded.

At length the opposite parties came to an open rupture. It was found expedient to remove the prince of Orange's court from the Hague to Nimeguen. The cities of Amsterdam, Haarlem, Alkmaar, Dort, Leyden, and Utrecht, took the lead in the opposition. The latter city, in particular, was most violent; and, in an attempt made by the troops of the stadtholder to seize the advanced post of Jutphaas, they were repulsed by the armed burghers of Utre[illegible] Thus the flames of civil war had actually been lighted up i[illegible] Seven United Provinces.

The king of Prussia was not an indifferent spectator of thes[illegible] ceedings; he only waited a plausible occasion to march an ar[illegible] Holland. This occasion fortunately very soon presented itself

princess of Orange, his sister, was arrested near Schoonhoven, on her journey from Nimeguen to the Hague, and detained as a prisoner for two days in that town. The states of Holland made a show of justifying the arrest; upon which his Prussian majesty, to punish the public affront of his sister, collected an army of 20,000 men in September 1787, and placed it under the command of the duke of Brunswick. The duke immediately set out from the duchy of Cleves, and entered the province of Holland at Arnheim. After a short ineffectual resistance, the republican party, not finding that assistance from France upon which they had founded their last hope, submitted, with as good a grace as they could, "to the re-establishment of the tottering constitution." At the intercession of the princess of Orange, the affront of her arrest was pardoned; a general amnesty was proclaimed; the constitution was restored to its primitive form, and the stadtholder re-established in all his privileges and prerogatives; in the peaceable possession of which he was guaranteed by the governments of England and Prussia.

Such was the state of the Seven United Provinces at the commencement of the French revolution. The Dutch republicans, during all their struggles for power, were accustomed to look up to [illegible]archical France for assistance and protection. What then must [illegible] been their secret exultation, at seeing the throne, and all the [illegible]rities emanating from it, at once overturned and destroyed, and [illegible]enial democracy usurping its powers? The Anti-orangists, [illegible]ver, possessing the constitutional apathy of Dutchmen, were [illegible] to keep under the ebullition of their spirits, and to await, in [illegible]t tranquillity and forbearance, a favourable opportunity to co-

operate with their friends in France. That opportunity, as will be seen, anticipated their most sanguine expectations. Meanwhile, the several governments of Europe, particularly such as were situated nearest the revolutionary conflagration, were preparing to guard against and divert its terrible approaches. The Dutch republic, although its obvious interests were neutrality and peace, found itself irresistably hurried into the vortex of this formidable anti-revolutionary alliance. The Dutch government saw its danger without a possibility of escaping it; and scarcely could the threatened opening of the Scheld, that old bone of contention, backed by the pressing remonstrances of the allied powers, extort from its tardy councils a cautious and feeble manifesto. That, however, formed a sufficient pretext to include the states-general and the prince of Orange in the list of enemies against whom the French convention thought proper to declare war.

The Dutch fight sturdily when actuated by emotions of interest or dislike. But, in the present instance, the nominal assistance of their forces, to the allies, was worse than negative. On the first disaster at Dunkirk, the Dutch troops ran off, in a body, and never halted until they got within their own frontier; and, on the subsequent reverses of the allied armies, the conduct of the Dutch was not m[illegible] disaffected to the common cause,—it was openly hostile.

The recollection of the calamitous retreat from Nimeguen [illegible] men never fails to awaken the most painful sensations; a[illegible] treatment our soldiers experienced from the Hollanders, dur[illegible] dreadful march through part of their country, cannot be th[illegible]

by those brave men, who have survived their sufferings, but with the most lively indignation *. What followed it was not difficult to foresee; the French entered Holland, and were received there, not as conquerors, but deliverers. They had the address and policy, even while exacting their requisitions, to respect the private property, the customs, and the prejudices of the inhabitants; and, though outrages and disorder could not fail to have been committed by an invading army, yet the general demeanour and conduct of the enemy were, comparatively, so just, moderate, and conciliating, that the Dutch became as much enamoured of their newly-assumed character as they were already prepossessed in favour of their new principles.

No sooner had the allied armies retired from the United Provinces, and the French advanced, than the democracy assumed the powers of government. The example had been given, for some time before, by the province of Friesland; which, indeed, might be deemed, from the first charter of the union, a distinct republic, federatively, but not constitutionally connected with the rest.

On this trying occasion, the stadtholder did all that could be expected from a prince in his desperate circumstances, without the ...s of enforcing his authority. He set forth manifestoes and pro...tions, exhorting the people to rise in a mass. But the popu... which heretofore supported the cause of the House of Orange,

...stances are told of actual murders having been perpetrated on our wounded men, who ... behind in the Dutch churches. But these stories are scarcely credible. That they ...om still more cruel neglect, is more probable. Such reports, however, having been ... in the army, during the late expedition, gave very unfavourable impressions of ...nanity and hospitality.

now deserted it. The prince, therefore, finding all further exertions fruitless, having previously sent off his family and effects, embarked himself, not without difficulty and opposition, at Scheveling, on board an open boat, navigated by three men, and arrived safe at Harwich on the 21st January, 1795.

A provisional government for the Seven United Provinces, like that of the convention of France, was established by the ruling party, whose first act was to conclude an alliance offensive and defensive with the French republic; while the long connexion and friendship between Great Britain and Holland ended with a mutual declaration of war, and an immediate commencement of hostilities. The French government having new-clothed and fed for six months its army in Holland, withdrew it. The strong places, however, on the southern frontier were garrisoned with French troops, in order to be retained by France until a general peace.

In the year 1797, a representative government, not greatly different in form and principles from the late directorial one of France, excepting that it recognises the obligation on religious worship in the state, superseded the conventional government; whilst the title of The Batavian Republic was, in future, to designate the Se[illegible] United Provinces. Hence, therefore, the partisans of the new c[illegible] stitution, and of the French connexion, began insensibly to lose [illegible] former appellatives of patriot and democrat, and to be known by t[illegible] newly-restored ancient name of *Batavian*.

Although there has been less bloodshed, outrage, and chang[illegible]

property in Holland, during its revolutionary transit from the old to the new order of things, than took place in contemporary revolutions, because the aberrations were neither so great nor so sudden, and the people themselves were of a less impassioned character, yet the consequences have been highly calamitous and ruinous to the Dutch nation. Abroad, their navy has been annihilated, their colonies possessed, and their commerce destroyed by their old allies whilst their wealth, and moveable property, at home, have fallen a prey to the requisitional plunder of their new friends. In fine, there is nothing valuable remaining to the republic, but the dykes, the sluices, and the water-works, to which the soil is indebted for its existence. But as these artificial means of preservation require continual repairs, and the exterior resources which commerce can alone supply, the country already exhibits symptoms of relapsing into that primitive state of morass and inundation in which it was found a thousand years ago, when the intrepid Batavians first conceived the bold and arduous project of giving stability to the quicksands of the Rhine, and limiting the incursions of the ocean.

A

# NARRATIVE,

*&c. &c.*

THE affairs of the British empire having proved remarkably prosperous in the early part of the year 1799, by her critical and decisive naval victories, and by the complete suppression of rebellion and insurrection at home,—a great military force remained, without any immediate object to engage its operations, at the disposal and direction of government.

About the middle of the summer very active prepar[illegible]ions for some impending and important service became general throughout the army. A camp was formed at Shirley-Common, near Southampton; all the regiments of the line on duty in Ireland were embarked, with the greatest possible dispatch, and at the most convenient ports, chiefly at Cork, for England; and those that were ordered first f[illegible] service had their full complements of men made up from skele[illegible] regiments, which last were afterwards wholly recruited, many [illegible] them with additional battalions, by volunteers from the Englis[illegible] [illegible]litia, conformably to a recent act of parliament made expressl[illegible] that purpose.

All these preparations began very much to engage and interest the public mind, whilst, from the appearance of bustle and secresy with which the armament was conducted, it acquired the name of the *Secret Expedition.*

Indeed so long as the place of rendezvous continued to be near Southampton, it might reasonably enough give rise to a variety of conjectures respecting its final destination. Accordingly, the coasts of Brittany, Portugal, and the Mediterranean, were severally mentioned, together with Holland and the Netherlands, as the supposed objects of the intended expedition. But when, at the latter end of June, the camp broke up at Shirley-Common, and the troops marched into Kent, and encamped on Barham-Downs, while transports were collecting at the different neighbouring ports, there was no longer a divided opinion as to its object and destination: it began to be universally believed that it was intended for Holland.

The French and Dutch governments seem to have been early apprised of the projected invasion; nor could it well have been otherwise, as the correspondence that was necessarily kept up with the Dutch loyalists, for the purpose of concerting with them on the best speediest modes of re-establishing their former constitution and ernment, could not long have escaped the suspicion and vigilance e existing government. Indeed, so early as June last, the enemy ed to have penetrated the design of the expedition, and they diately began to adopt the most active measures to counteract efeat it. Their military force in the Netherlands was suddenly

augmented by means of conscripts; an army of observation was stationed along the coast of Flanders, from Dunkirk to Ostend; the fortifications in the island of Walcheren and at the mouths of the Scheld were repaired and strengthened; and a French army began forthwith to be organised in Holland under the command of general Brune.

On the part of the expedition no time was to be lost, as the season was fast approaching when the most wisely planned and best conducted military operations were liable to be defeated by the elements alone. Of this government seemed to be sufficiently aware, for the equipment and embarkation of the first division were pushed on with the utmost vigour and celerity. On the 8th of August the camp on Barham-Downs broke up; and the troops collected there marched off the ground to Margate, Ramsgate, Deal, and Dover, preparatory to their embarkation.

The first division of troops for this service was unquestionably composed of the flower of the British army. It consisted chiefly of old regiments whose courage and conduct had been proved on former occasions, and who were inured to a military life, and disciplined by actual service in various climates; the several brigades were c[illegible] manded by experienced generals; and the commander in chief [illegible] an officer who had devoted a long life to the service of his cou[illegible] during which, on many trying occasions, in different countr[illegible] was distinguished for his courage and ability, and the mo[illegible] blemished reputation. The whole effective military force [illegible]

first division amounted in round numbers to about fifteen thousand men *.

From the 9th to the 13th August the troops were occupied in embarking on board the transports and men of war at their respective stations; and on the morning of Tuesday, the 13th of August, the whole fleet, amounting to upwards of 200 sail of every description of vessels, under the command of vice-admiral Mitchel, who hoisted his flag on board the Isis, put to sea with the most favourable auspices. The weather, which had previously been very inclement for the season, had now the appearance of becoming settled. The day itself was uncommonly fine, the wind was as fair as could be wished, and the whole armament, on getting under way, was accompanied by the prayers, the wishes, and the hopes of millions; not merely arising from patriotic or national emotions, but from feelings of friendship and affection, in consequence of the widely-extended relative connexions of those who were embarked or concerned in it.

Towards evening, the several divisions of the fleet were united, and

* The following is a detail of the forces which composed the first division. Sir Ralph [illegible]bercrombie, K. B. commander in chief. Sir James Pulteney, K. B. second in command.

[illegible] brigade, two battalions guards; major-general D'Oyley.

[illegible]nd brigade, two battalions guards; major-general Burrard.

[illegible]rd brigade, 2d, 27th, 29th, 69th, and 85th regiments; major-general Coote.

[illegible]h brigade, 1ſt royals, 25th, 49th, 79th, and 92d regiments, (the two laſt Highland); [illegible]eral Moore.

[illegible]ve attached to 3d brigade, 23d and 55th regiments; two troops 18th light dragoons; [illegible]Macdonald.

[illegible]achment of the flying artillery and of the corps of engineers.

the whole armament, which now nearly covered the straits, held a north-easterly course with a pleasant and favourable breeze. During the night, the fleet had made fast approaches to the coast of Zealand; and on the following day, the weather having assumed a very threatening appearance, the admiral hauled his wind, upon which the whole fleet wore, and held a course north by west. On the 15th August, the wind still blowing fresh, a junction was formed with the north-sea fleet under admiral lord Duncan, who however did not assume the command, which remained with vice-admiral Mitchel. From the 15th to the 20th of August, the weather continued exceedingly stormy, accompanied with squalls and showers. Many of the ships sustained damage, and the fleet was widely scattered and separated. However, the wind having considerably abated on the evening of the 20th, signals were made to collect the scattered ships round the admiral; and on the following da the headmost ships fell in with the coast of Holland, upon which the fleet lay off and on shore all night with a gentle breeze from the west. The next day, 22d, the weather being moderate, the whole fleet came to an anchor, the Texel Roads being distant about five miles. The signal was now given, and every preparation made for landing; but, towards evening, the wind again freshened, and the fleet was compelled to weigh anchor, and to put to sea in the night, it blo[illegible]ing hard on a lee-shore from the south-west.

Nothing could have happened more unfortunately than this d[illegible] pointment. Although a descent on the coast of Holland was ju[illegible] from the very beginning, to be the object of the expedition, y[illegible] particular part of the country chosen for the attempt was known

to the commanders in chief, and remained to the last a profound secret to all others. It is now, however, generally believed, that the coast of Zealand, either at the entrances of the Meuse or the Scheld, was pitched upon, in the first instance, for the enterprise; and it must be owned that there were many good reasons for this preference.

In that part of the United Provinces the friends of the prince of Orange had concentrated their force, which was considerable and respectable. The neighbouring provinces of Brabant were in a state of insurrection, which held the French in check, and they only waited for a proper occasion to make a powerful diversion. Fine commodious harbours would be secured for our shipping, and an easy and speedy intercourse kept up with England. Finally, in the event of a successful descent and consequent junction with the Orangists, the position, which the British army must necessarily have assumed would have broken the connexion between the northern and southern provinces, and have secured a short and easy route, through a fine fertile country, by Rotterdam to the capital. The possession of the Dutch fleet would not, perhaps, have been the immediate consequence, but its surrender must eventually have followed the fate of the country.

't was the near prospect of succeeding, in this last important en- rise, that ultimately determined the descent to take place on the of North Holland,—the weather having prevented any prompt sudden attempt to land in a more southern situation. When, fore, the armament anchored the first time, near the Texel, the y had no suspicion of a descent, and were quite unprepared to

oppose an invading army in that quarter. The recurrence of the storm that forced the armament to put to sea, after having been reviewed by the enemy, must therefore be considered as a very serious misfortune; for if the weather had proved favourable, the disembarkation would have been effected without opposition, and not the Dutch fleet only, but the whole province of North Holland would in consequence, most probably, have fallen an easy and speedy conquest.

On the two following days after leaving the coast, the storm rather increased than abated, and some of the transports were obliged to bear away for England. By this time all the fresh provisions and vegetables in the fleet were consumed; and wine, vinegar, and even water began to be scarce. Indeed the general aspect of affairs appeared so unpromising, that serious apprehensions were entertained for the fa of the expedition, and the return of the armament to England began to be deemed an event of absolute necessity. However on the 25th the general hope was revived by the weather having moderated, and on the morning of the 26th the whole fleet once more came to anchor off the northern extremity of the province of Holland.

The most active exertions were now made to expedite and facilitate the disembarkation. The various descriptions of vessels composing the armament were arranged in the following order. T transports were stationed on the outside; nearest to these were mo the ships of the line; the frigates lay next in order, still neare shore; and the armed brigs, cutters, bomb-vessels, and gun were moored close along-shore to cover the landing.

While thus, on the eve of the arduous enterprise, every individual was busied in his respective station, not a moment was lost in discovering the situation of the Dutch fleet, and in sounding the disposition of the crews. For this purpose flags of truce passed between the English and Dutch admirals *, and the result proved highly satisfactory as to one grand achievement of the expedition.

At three o'clock in the morning of Tuesday, 27th August, the signal was given for disembarkation, the troops having been previously furnished with sixty rounds of ball-cartridge, and two days' provisions in their haversacks; besides which their canteens were filled with spirits and water.

To effect a landing on an hostile coast, in the face of an enemy pre-[illegible]red to dispute it, must be allowed to be a bold and hazardous attempt, under the most favourable circumstances: in the present instance it was peculiarly so. The extremity of the province of North Holland forms a narrow peninsula, whose west side, where the landing was effected, is washed by the Atlantic Ocean; and the northernmost end, whose angle forms the Helder Point, faces the Texel Island: the channel between, called the Mars Diep, is the principal entrance into the Zuider Zee, which sea washes the eastern shore. The Helder Point is a bold bluff beach, from which several piers of [illegible]h unhewn stones project into the sea †: it is crowned by a strong

[illegible]e admiral lord Duncan's ſummons, and the anſwer of admiral Story, in the Appendix.

[illegible]bour and patience with which the Hollanders constructed these piers of immense [illegible]efly for the purpose of breaking the force of the ocean, must appear astonishing, [illegible] remembered that there is not, in the whole country, a stone to be found as big as a [illegible]ble.

battery, called Kyckduyn, which commands the passage to the Texel Roads, but is itself commanded, on the land side, by the heights of Heuysden. From this point the coast stretches due south, presenting to the sea a flat beach, on which a heavy surf breaks even in the calmest weather; but when it blows, no boat can live in an attempt to approach the shore. Ascending from the strand, the land presently rises into sand-hills, which are formed into three irregularly-parallel ranges of unequal heights, the easternmost being the highest. The valleys between are narrow and winding, and the hills, intersected by ravines and defiles, rise into abrupt ridges, which form so many natural redoubts. Between the Sand-Hills and the Zuider Zee, the land extends into a marshy plain, divided by dykes and inundations. About seven miles from the Helder, the road turns off at right angles with the sea-coast, and, passing in front of some farm-houses, leads directly into the country.

This description will serve for the whole coast of Holland, from the Texel to the Meuse, except that, proceeding to the southward, the Sand-Hills extend in breadth, and are skirted by thick woods, which separate them from the flat country.

It was at first intended, and so ordered, that all the launches that carried troops from the transports should rendezvous under the ster
of such frigates as lay nearest the landing-place; after which t
army was to disembark in the following order:—Major-gene
Coote's brigade, with a detachment of the light artillery, we
effect a landing on the right of the whole, under the comm

Sir James Pulteney. After which, the rest of the army, under the commander in chief, was immediately to follow; major-general Doyley's brigade taking its position on the right; major-general Burrard's occupying the centre; and that of major-general Moore being posted on the left. This plan of operations, however, was not precisely executed,—for the first boats that received the men from the transports, having been taken into tow by wherries and schooners, pushed on directly to the beach, under a press of sail, without attending to the general rendezvous; whilst the soldiers, as soon as ever the boats took the ground, jumped out on the strand, and instantly formed under cover of the flotilla, which kept up an incessant and tremendous fire of shot and shells during the whole of the engagement that succeeded. Thus it was that the body of troops which attacked and defeated the enemy was composed of the reserve, and of detached parties of different regiments, chiefly of the third brigade.

Meanwhile the enemy, who the preceding evening only had collected his forces at the village of Callants-Oge, posted his infantry, among which were some battalions of riflemen, on the Sand-Hills, and his cavalry and artillery on the marshy plain behind. In this position he observed our landing with apparent indifference: but as soon as the British marched from the strand, and began to ascend the heights, the enemy advanced, and the action commenced.

The first contention was in attacking an eminence, on which was [illegible]d a telegraph or signal-post, which was afterwards of use to us

in directing the fire of the armed vessels and gun-boats. This point of defence, after a smart contest, was carried by the flank companies of the third brigade *; and in like manner the enemy was pushed from one eminence to another, not without a warm dispute for each, by the persevering ardour and intrepidity of the British troops, encouraged by the gallantry and bravery of their officers. About noon the action became general, and very brisk: the inequalities of the ground did not allow of more than one battalion to be drawn up in line, so that our advanced parties were supported and relieved by fresh detachments, who, as soon as they were landed, marched up from the strand to the scene of action. The British army had neither cavalry nor artillery; but these wants were in a great measure remedied by the steady co-operation of the armed vessels, whose terrible fire prevented any attempt of the enemy to turn its right flank. The enemy, nevertheless, made some ineffectual manœuvres with a view of charging with his cavalry; but he fired his field-pieces and howitzers from the plain with considerable effect.

About five o'clock in the evening the enemy was driven from the last ridge of the Sand-Hills, and retired further, between the inundation and farm-houses on the plain; at which time the brigade of guards, under major-general Doyley, marched along the strand with two field-pieces, which had just been brought up by a party of sailors, to attack the enemy in his last position. The enemy, forming a clo

* The gallantry and spirit of the grenadiers of the 29th regiment deserve to be mentione Finding themselves encumbered with their knapsacks, &c. whilst charging the enem the heavy sand, they threw away both them and their provisions. After the battle, these men petitioned to have their necessaries replaced, which in truth they much wanted; bu a strick adherence to the rules of military discipline, their request could not be granted.

column, with some artillery in front, sustained the attack with firmness, and retired in good order to a position about six miles distant, without being pursued on our part, for the want of cavalry.

Thus ended an irregular but well-contested action, which established a British army in Holland, and which was immediately followed by the most important consequences.

The force that the enemy had been able to collect to oppose our descent was estimated at seven thousand men, all Dutch troops well cloathed and appointed, and commanded by a general of some repute (Daendels). The prompt and vigorous attack of the British was therefore a measure of the first necessity; for if the enemy had been allowed time to collect a more considerable army, and to take advantage of the strong ground, by planting cannon on some of the heights, the dislodging of them would have been a task of far greater difficulty.

The loss of the Dutch in this engagement, according to their own account, amounted to eleven hundred men, among whom however they reckoned no officer of rank, except one colonel (Luk) killed.

The British loss, considering the small proportion of the army ually engaged, was by no means inconsiderable: it amounted to hundred, and fell chiefly on the reserve, consisting of the 23d d 55th regiments, commanded by colonel Macdonald, who, though ed, never left the scene of action. The detachments of the brigade, from the Queen's, 27th, 29th, and 85th regiments, the command of major-general Coote, did not suffer propor-

tionably less than the reserve. Lieutenant-general Sir James Pulteney, second in command, was unfortunately disabled by a wound in the arm: his place, however, was ably supplied by major-general Coote.

The principal officers who fell during the action were, lieutenant-colonel Smollet of the guards, and lieutenant-colonel Hay of the engineers. The latter received a cannon shot, which shattered his thigh; he had the satisfaction, however, of commending, with his latest breath, a numerous family to the care of his friend the commander in chief, and of dying with the consolatory reflexion that they would be provided for by his country *.

The left wing of the British army was not engaged; it was composed of major-general Moore's brigade, and the brigade of guards under major-general Burrard, and was destined to attack the batteries at the Helder. But the enemy saved us the trouble; for, on perceiving the event of the battle, the garrison, consisting of between two and three thousand men, silently and secretly evacuated the forts, having first spiked the guns and destroyed some of the carriages; upon which, under cover of the dusk of the evening, they retreated along the dyke, on the edge of the Zuider Zee, directly in front of our whole army; and in some points not half a mile from our advanced picquets. The same night, detachments from major-general Moore's brigade occupied the batteries at the Helder Point; and the

* The total return of killed and wounded, corrected from the official *detail*, is as follows:— Two lieutenant-colonels, 1 subaltern, 3 serjeants, 51 rank and file killed; 1 lieutenant-general, 1 colonel, 1 lieutenant-colonel, 1 major, nine captains, 6 subalterns, 18 serjeants, 1 drummer, 334 rank and file wounded; 26 rank and file missing. The casualties are not included in this return.

next day the British troops marched into the Helder town, accompanied by numbers of loyal Dutchmen, whose first acts were to cut down the tree of liberty, to mount the Orange cockade, and to hoist the Orange flag on the steeple of the church.

Thus were the first efforts of the British army in Holland crowned with complete success,—a landing was effected, the enemy defeated, and a safe port for our shipping secured; and, on the day after the engagement, we had the satisfaction to witness the first fruits of our victory, by the disembarkation of a reinforcement of five thousand men at the Nieuve Diep, just arrived from England under the command of major-general Don *. For these troops, owing to a continuance of the storms, could not possibly have disembarked on the beach where the first division effected a landing.

All the Dutch men of war that were afloat in the Mars Diep, in consequence of the decided success of the British arms, got under weigh, retired further within the Zuider Zee, and anchored in a narrow and intricate channel behind the Texel Island, called the Vlieter.

Admiral Mitchel having anchored in the Mars Diep with his whole fleet, consisting of eleven sail of fifty and sixty-four gun ships, including two Russian men of war, proceeded without loss of time to follow the enemy; meanwhile he dispatched the Circe, captain Winthorp, to take possession of the ships that were laid up in the

* This division consisted of 17th, 20th, and 40th regiments, two battalions each, and the 63d regiment.

New Diep, together with the arsenal and naval stores. This service was performed without the least show of opposition on the part of the enemy. Thirteen ships of war and three Indiamen were found there *.

In exploring the winding channels of the Texel Roads, the America, and the Ratisvaw (Russian ship), took the ground; and as they could not immediately be got off, the fleet proceeded without them, and, in the morning of the 30th August, anchored in line, a short distance from that of the enemy.

A flag of truce from the Dutch admiral now came on board the Isis, with proposals for the purpose of gaining time, under pretext of receiving instructions from the Batavian government. An answer was immediately returned, with positive orders not to alter the position of the Dutch ships, and to submit within an hour under pain of the consequences. Captain Rennie of the Victor was also the bearer of a summons from vice-admiral Mitchel to Admiral Storey; in which the latter, and those under him, were exhorted instantly to hoist the flag of his serene highness the prince of Orange, and by so doing to be considered as friends of the king of Great Britain, otherwise the blood that must be shed by a contrary conduct would be on the heads of those who resisted. The Dutch admiral, finding his situation hopeless and irretrievable, struck his flag, attempting at the

* The ships laid up in the New Diep, were, one guard-ship of 54 guns, one ship of 66 guns, six of 44 guns, one of 32 guns, and four of 24 guns, together with three Indiamen and a sheer-hulk.

same time to justify his conduct in an official answer to the summons of the British admiral, in which he alleges, that he acknowledges no sovereign but the representatives of the Batavian people; and that, in consequence of the mutiny of his fleet, he was under the necessity of surrendering it, submitting himself and his officers as prisoners of war.

The flag of the Batavian republic having been struck, a number of officers was sent from the British fleet to take possession of each of the Dutch ships, accompanied by a proclamation from vice-admiral Mitchel, with a view of tranquillising the minds of the people on board *, and of restoring order and subordination.

This last remnant of the Dutch navy, that so happily yielded to the flag of Great Britain, consisted of eight ships of the line, three frigates, and a sloop of war.

During these successful operations by sea and land, the Dutch seem to have been astonished and panick-struck at the boldness and rapidity of our movements. They fondly imagined, that their batteries on shore, and their channels and shoals, scarcely navigable by themselves, would have rendered the situation, at least of their fleet, impregnable; as if any dangers were too great to be encountered, or any obstacles insurmountable, by the combined efforts of a British army and navy.

* For the correspondence of the English and Dutch admirals, and the memoir of the latter in justification of his conduct, see the Appendix.

The Dutch admiral has been severely censured for the line of conduct he pursued. By not adopting the measures of the loyal part of his fleet, in declaring openly for the prince of Orange, he for ever forfeited his countenance and protection. On the other hand, he was suspected by the Batavian government, who employed him, of betraying the high trust reposed in him, by surrendering the fleet of the republic to its enemy without so much as firing a gun. On the whole, however, if the statement the Dutch admiral has given for his own justification is to be credited, and there is no good reason to doubt of its truth, he appears to have been more unfortunate than culpable.

As soon as complete possession was obtained of the Helder and its dependencies, the republican municipalities were suppressed, and magistrates elected agreeably to the former constitution. Two proclamations were also issued in the Dutch and English languages, and distributed among the inhabitants. The first was from the commander in chief, Sir Ralph Abercrombie, setting forth, That the British army enters the territory of the United Provinces, not as enemies, but as friends and deliverers from the oppression of France,—it calls upon the Dutch to be instrumental to their own deliverance, recommending to all parties union, concord, and a forgiveness of injuries; but, at the same time, it asserts, that if any Dutchmen should in future be found to adhere to the oppressors of their country (the French), they would be treated as decided and irreconcileable enemies. The other proclamation was a temperate, persuasive, and conciliating address from his serene highness the prince of Orange to his countrymen. It was to the same purport as the former, and promised, that

the hereditary prince of Orange would soon put himself at the head of all loyal Dutchmen, to co-operate with the allied army in re-establishing their former free and lawful government *.

But neither the brilliant career of the British arms, nor these proclamations, had the immediate effect expected from them. The inhabitants of the part of the country in our possession displayed no cordiality in their attachment to the cause we maintained, which seemed to be the effect rather of necessity than choice, and a new feature of the Dutch character soon betrayed itself,—they proved cool and cautious in their friendship, but active and vindictive in their enmity.

During these transactions, the weather continued unusually severe and tempestuous. Admiral lord Duncan, having superintended, though he did not command the naval operations, returned in the Kent man-of-war to England.

From the 27th August to the 1st September, the army was stationed on the line of Sand-Hills, extending about seven miles from the northern point at the Helder to the village of Callants-Oge. In this exposed situation it suffered severely from the inclemency of the weather, for there was no other shelter from the unusual coldness, accompanied with frequent heavy showers that prevailed during the nights, than what could be obtained by digging trenches in the sand. The supplies of provisions were also for a few days irregular and

* For these proclamations, see Appendix.

precarious, owing to the intercourse with the fleet being interrupted by the unceasing storms. As these hardships however extended to all without distinction, they were sustained by all, not only with fortitude but with cheerfulness.

Whilst the army occupied this position, it was employed in throwing up breast-works and redoubts at several points of defence, and in receiving parties which every day came over from the enemy to declare for the prince of Orange, though their numbers were by no means considerable.

About this time another proclamation was issued, signed by the hereditary prince of Orange, which, in consequence of the present favourable posture of his affairs, was conceived in more peremptory language than the former. It especially enjoins to the people of the seven provinces to establish forthwith a provisional government, until the legal constitution shall be effectually restored, and directs all those persons who, prior to the French invasion, had been employed in the departments of police, finance, and justice, immediately to assume the provisional administration of those departments, with the exception of such as had a share in the revolution, or were attached to the present illegal government. Nevertheless, to prevent confusion, it tolerates the public functionaries of the existing government until the provisional one is prepared to exercise its powers *.

At length, on the 1st September, to the great satisfaction of every

* For the proclamation, see Appendix.

one, the army received orders to quit their position on the Sand-Hills, and to advance into the country.

And here it may neither be improper nor irrelevant to the subject, to consider, whether all the advantages proposed to be derived from undertaking the expedition might probably have been greater, or more decided, if any other plan of operation had been adopted at its commencement than that which was actually followed;—for the world, in judging of events, is prone to make its conclusions, not always in consonance with the causes by which they were produced, but from their successful or unfortunate issues.

Immediately consequent to the possession of the enemy's fleet, and the establishment of a victorious army in the country, formidable indeed more from its discipline, appointments, and courage, than from its numbers,—three several places of operation obviously presented themselves.

The first was, to reimbark the troops, and to withdraw them altogether from North Holland, after having brought off, with the captured ships, as much of the artillery and the military and naval stores as were worth the removal, and then to destroy the remainder. By this expedient, it is true, a grand exploit would have been achieved of incalculable advantage to Great Britain, and with an incomparably small proportion of expenditure of life and treasure; but, by so doing, the main intention and scope of the expedition would have been frustrated, which were—to effect the re-establisment of the former legal constitution, and to restore the stadtholderate to the House of

Orange. Yet, even supposing conquest only was the sole object of pursuit, the éclat of our arms, as well as the solid advantages already obtained, warranted a further prosecution of them. To abandon therefore the expedition in its first successful onset,—to relinquish at once the fair prospect of the speedy completion of all its objects, and to return home without so much as one discouraging circumstance or occurrence, would be an extraordinary line of conduct indeed, that might well challenge animadversion.

Directly opposed to so contracted and timid a plan, another equally apparent offered itself.—After having secured the enemy's fleet and the forts of the Texel, to have profited by the first successes, and, without the loss of a moment, to have followed them up, as far as possible, with the utmost energy and promptitude. In favour of such a plan of operations, arguments not unplausible might be adduced: it might be alleged, that the enemy, weak in numbers, having as yet not been joined by the French, and disheartened by our unexpected victorious commencement, would not dared to have opposed the rapid advance of the British army;—that apprehensive of this, he had evacuated for a short time Alkmaar; that possession therefore might have been gained, without loss, of a tract of country adequate to the maintenance and accommodation of an army of 50,000 men, and for which we afterwards so warmly contended;—that we might have then secured a teneable position, by establishing a line of posts through a strong country, from Hoorne to Egmont of Zee, having Alkmaar as a principal intermediate post;—that, by such a vigorous movement, those of the inhabitants who were sincerely attached to the interests of the prince of Orange would be induced

to come forward, and evince their loyalty, not by a mere display of its symbols, but by a manly and active co-operation with the British army; and finally, supposing the worst, that a retreat would have become necessary, the same security in effecting it would have existed then as at any subsequent period.

Induced by such considerations, it is not improbable that the British army, flushed with victory, would have pushed on to Alkmaar immediately after the battle of the 27th August, if its numerical force had been greater. But although that city might have then been taken, and the country possessed without opposition, yet to have maintained for any time a secure position there, inasmuch as the line of defence, extending from sea to sea, must have been very weak, would be a doubtful and extremely hazardous undertaking.

Between those two measures of leaving the country, and advancing farther into it, a medium was chosen by our veteran and experienced commander. The army took up a position on the course of the Groot-Sluys of the Zype, having Oude-Sluys on the Zuyder Zee on its left flank, and Petten on the Atlantic Ocean on its right. By this position a fertile tract of country was gained, which, though of no great extent, was sufficient to subsist the army that then occupied it. It furnished an abundant supply of excellent black cattle and sheep, and also of horses and waggons,—of which last the army stood in great need. The position was likewise a remarkably strong one; for it was defended by the great dyke or embankment running in front of the canal, and extending across the isthmus. The course of this bank is not in a straight line, it forms several half-moon and

angular projections, and has a fine gravel road all along the top. At convenient distances small redoubts were immediately erected, and cannon mounted upon them, so that the dyke, thus fortified, was not less adapted to stop the progress of an enemy than of an inundation.

In this secure situation, the army waited impatiently for the powerful reinforcements which were hourly expected; meanwhile it occupied quarters which might be termed comfortable, compared with those on the Sand-Hills. The troops were cantoned in large and commodious farm-houses, which made excellent barracks, all the offices being contained under one roof. These houses were so numerous and equally distributed, that the face of the country had the appearance of a continued village.

It was now two hundred and fifty years since the peace and happiness of this part of the United Provinces had been interrupted by hostile armies:—no wonder then, that, during so long a repose, the virtuous and industrious inhabitants had attained the summit of political prosperity. The dates on the fronts of all the houses prove them to have been built in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, —during which last æra the country appears to have acquired as many people as it could possibly maintain: ever since, the overflowing population must have been disposed of occasionally in the marine and in the colonies.

The manners, customs, and fashions of the people of North Holland perfectly coincide with the dates on their houses—they exhibit a picture of centuries past: and as neither riches nor poverty, palaces

or hovels, are to be seen there, the inhabitants must, for ages, have been in the actual and unquestionable enjoyment of that genuine liberty and equality which is founded on just laws, adapted to the genius and character of the people;—but of the modern metaphysical import of these words they were totally ignorant, until, by bringing calamity and destruction on the human race, it, at length, involved them in the dreadful consequences.

The enemy not finding himself pursued, and being, at this time, reinforced by the advanced guard of the French army, which had proceeded by forced marches through South Holland, began to recover from his panic, and to take up positions in our front.

From the first to the tenth of September the army was exercised by frequent false alarms, which might be so far useful, as it accustomed the troops to assemble under arms without beat of drum;—sometimes at any given hour in the night, and always at two hours before day-break.

At length, the commander in chief, having been duly apprised that a formidable attack was in meditation against our right, made the necessary preparations to repel it. Some skirmishing had occurred before this, at our advanced post at Warmanhuysen, and in front of Oude-Carspel, which occasioned those posts to fall back, it being intended to strengthen our position, and to act on the defensive until the arrival of the expected reinforcements.

The Batavian government, by uncommon and forcible exertions,

had collected a number of Dutch troops from the general levy, called the National Volunteer Guards, and raised by the several towns and districts throughout the Seven United Provinces. These troops, having been recently joined by a part of the promised succours from France, composed a considerable force,—not exceeding, however, twelve thousand men.

On the morning of the 10th September, at day-break, the combined enemy commenced the attack. They divided all the force they were able to muster into three columns; the right column, composed wholly of Dutch troops under the command of general Daendels, directed its operations against the British ports of Saint Maarten and Eenigenburg; the centre column, likewise Dutch, marched on to the attack of Krabendam and the Sleiper Dyke; while the left, consisting entirely of French troops, under the direction of general Brune, advanced upon Camperduyn and the Dyke towards Petten.

Our position at the head of the Dyke of the Zype was very strong and commanding, and was bravely defended by the two battalions of the 20th regiment, under lieutenant-colonel Smyth, who was severely wounded. The enemy advanced, notwithstanding, with great intrepidity. His right column pushed on to St. Maarten's, of which it obtained a temporary possession; but the centre, not being able to penetrate the British lines, and the left column of French having been checked in its career by the British right, consisting of the two brigades of guards under major-general Moore, while the flank of that column was for some time exposed to a destructive fire from our centre,—the whole of the enemy's force was compelled to retreat

before eleven o'clock in the morning. His retreat was quickened by colonel Macdonald with the reserve. After which, both armies re-assumed the positions they had respectively occupied before the action; the head-quarters of the British being at Schagen, and that of the enemy at St. Pancras, a village to the north of Alkmaar.

This experiment cost the enemy near a thousand men in killed and wounded, including about forty officers, and one general (David), who was killed. It was made at the express order of the Batavian Directory, but with what intention is not very obvious, as the whole of the enemy's force was easily repulsed by little more than a third of ours.

The loss of the British army in killed, wounded, and missing, was two hundred men, including ten officers wounded. Major-general Moore received a flesh wound, which however did not oblige him to quit the field *.

Although no ground was gained by this victory, it impressed the enemy however with a due sense of the strength of our position, and the courage of our men, while it intimidated him from trying any more offensive operations. The whole British army, in consequence, remained for some time in perfect security and repose, ardently expecting the time when its augmented strength should enable it to act offensively in turn.

* The total loss, according to the official returns, was 37 rank and file killed; 1 lieutenant-colonel, 1 major, 4 captains, 4 subalterns, 2 serjeants, 131 rank and file wounded; 1 serjeant, 18 rank and file missing.

Hitherto the troops, though harassed by severe duty, and constantly exposed to the vicissitudes of a most inclement sky, retained the highest health. To this, the lively hope of conquest inspiriting the mind, and a daily allowance of rum, being a gratuitous dole from the King, acting as a salutary stimulus on the body, no doubt essentially contributed *.

To the general joy of the army, field-marshal his royal highness the duke of York arrived on the 13th September, in the Amethyst frigate, at the Helder, after a passage of four days from Deal. His royal highness brought over three brigades of British troops †,—and, immediately upon landing, had the satisfaction to witness the disembarkation of eight battalions of Russian auxiliaries, consisting of seven thousand men, under the command of lieutenant-general D'Herman.

The Russian forces had arrived from Revel the preceding day, and were speedily followed by the remainder of that division, consisting of three thousand men. Another division from Yarmouth soon after

* The allowance of grog or wine in the navy has been found of essential service in contributing to preserve the health of seamen. A similar allowance extended to the army, while in active service, would be certainly not less useful—as soldiers, in the course of a campaign, are liable to greater fatigues, and exposures, without shelter, to inclement weather, than even sailors.

† The brigades which disembarked on the 13th September were,—5th foot, 2 battalions; 35th, 2 battalions; his royal highness prince William of Gloucester:—4th foot, 3 battalions; 31st, 2 battalions; major-general earl Chatham:—9th foot, 3 battalions; 50th, 2 battalions; major-general Manners:—7th light dragoons, artillery.—N. B. The 11th light dragoons landed some time before.

joined the allied armies, making, altogether, the Russian auxiliary troops amount to between seventeen and eighteen thousand effective men.

The fame of the Russian arms had already filled every quarter of the habitable globe. The courage, vigour, and discipline of those invincible troops claimed and obtained universal commendation,—and British soldiers, for the first time, were about to take lessons in the science of war from their redoubtable allies. It must, however, be confessed, that the Russian troops were little or nothing indebted to external appearance for their high reputation. Their cloathing, arms, and accoutrements were certainly, at least, not superior to our own. Their uniform was green, with black, yellow, or red facings; yellow breeches, and long black leggings. The grenadiers were only distinguished by conical caps, with fronts of white or yellow latten metal. Many of the men had one, two, and, some few, three silver medals, appending by a short ribbon from the lapels of their coats. These medals, which were stamped either with the effigies of the emperor Paul, or of the late empress Catharine, with a Russian inscription on the reverse, were tokens of military merit, bestowed on account of some signal exploit. How far such rewards might contribute to excite military emulation in the breast of the soldier, deserves to be considered. There was a similar practice in the French armies, but on a much more comprehensive aud elegant plan *. The

* A medal of this last description was found on the person of a French soldier, who had died of his wounds;—it hung by a string round his neck, within-side his shirt. It was of silver, larger than a crown-piece; and the action for which it was granted was represented on it, with a suitable inscription. The whole was executed in a masterly style. This medal is now in the possession of an officer of the 29th regiment.

Russian officers wore no epaulets, but they were known by a very large silver gorget, which possibly might be intended as a defensive armour for the breast.

In their persons, the Russians, for the most part, were rather under the middle size, but broad-chested, robust, and muscular. Their countenances, however, could not be thought prepossessing;—to those who were unaccustomed to view them, they seemed even repulsive and ferocious.

The Russian grenadiers had not been selected on account of their height, but for their superior strength of form;—and this choice seems to be founded in a just estimate of the qualities which constitute bodily vigour; for men of the middle size are found to be proportionably stronger, and better able to endure fatigue, than tall men.

The only cavalry attached to the Russian army consisted of one troop of hussars, and two or three troops of Cossacks. The former was a part of the *gardes-du-corps* of the emperor, and was composed of picked men of the largest dimensions, and of the finest proportions, most superbly appointed. The Cossacks were of a slenderer make, and had better countenances than the Russians. Their arms were—a carabine slung across the back in a kind of cradle-sling, a scimitar, pistols in the waist-belt, and a spear twelve feet long in the hand. This furniture, together with their oriental dresses, and fine bushy beards, produced an effect more picturesque and romantic than formidable. They were mounted on a wretched looking race

of small ambling horses, with long tails and manes, and of different colours. Notwithstanding which, these animals were reported to be docile, sure-footed, and indefatigable.

The general appearance of the Russian army, when drawn up under arms, announced, at the first glance, that it was composed of troops formed altogether for service, and not for show. There appeared to have been established throughout all ranks the most absolute subordination. Several priests accompanied the army, to whom was yielded implicit and reverential obedience *.

Prior to the arrival of field-marshal his royal highness the duke of York, and the last reinforcements, the British army had been established in an advanced position in the country, as already described. The 69th regiment was encamped outside the Helder, where it remained, as a rear guard, during the campaign. A body of marines from the fleet did duty on the Texel Island, at the island of Warengen, and at the arsenal at the New Diep. His serene highness the hereditary prince of Orange had landed at the Helder a few days before his royal highness the duke of York, and was employed in forming into regiments a number of Dutch loyalists—volunteers from the fleet, and deserters from the enemy. But many refractory Dutchmen, who, in the revolt of the fleet, had joined the British standard, were now obliged to be confined in the island of Warengen.

* The Russians are members of the Greek church, in which there is much fasting. A few faſt-days happened during the campaign, which were strictly enjoined, and as strictly observed—and, it must be remarked, sometimes very opportunely.

The reinforcements, as soon as they joined the army, were distributed along the lines, which now became necessarily more extended. Major-general Moore's brigade assumed a more advanced position on the left, at Colhorn; and the Russian forces now formed the right wing of the allied army, having relieved the guards who were posted at Petten. Field-marshal his royal highnesss the duke of York, having been declared, in public orders, captain-general and commander in chief of the allied forces on the continent, established his head-quarters at Schagenburg *.

Whilst the most active exertions were employed in making the necessary arrangements, preparatory to the commencement of offensive operations, vice-admiral Mitchel was busied in preparations not less active in the fleet, in order to co-operate on the Zuyder Zee with the movements by land. A flotilla of gun-vessels was fitted out under the direction of Sir Home Popham, calculated to act, not only on either coast, but also on the inland navigation.

Every arrangement having been made, upon Thursday, September the 19th, at an hour before day-break, the allied army was under arms and in motion,—its whole force amounting at that time to about thirty-six thousand effective men,—all in high health and spirits, excellently appointed, and furnished with a fine train of artillery.

This force was formed into four columns, besides the reserve un-

* Schagenburg is a village situated immediately on the great sluys or canal of the Zype, fourteen miles south of the Helder, and a mile due north of the town of Schagen, within the great dyke or embankment.

der colonel Macdonald, which had advanced on the left the preceding evening, preparatory to the turning of the enemy's right.

The first column on the right, composed principally of Russians, was under the command of lieutenant-general D'Herman. It was destined to attack the left wing of the enemy, which consisted wholly of French,—to force his position on the heights of Camperduyn, and in the villages under those heights, and, finally, to take possession of Berghen.

The second column, commanded by lieutenant-general Dundas, was intended to co-operate with the first, by carrying the enemy's posts at the villages of Warmenhuysen and Shoerldam. The first of these places was the advanced post of the enemy on the plain; the other was situated behind it, nearer the Sand-Hills.

The object of the third column, under lieutenant-general Sir James Pulteney, was to attack and take possession of Oude-Carspel, at the head of the long dyke leading to Alkmaar. This post covered the enemy's right wing, which occupied the plain in front of Alkmaar, and was composed wholly of Dutch troops under general Daendels.

The fourth column * was commanded by lieutenant-general Sir

* First column—twelve battalions of Russians, major-general Manners' brigade, 7th light dragoons.

Second column—two brigades guards, major-general his royal highness prince William of Gloucester's brigade, and two squadrons 11th light dragoons.

Ralph Abercrombie;—it was posted considerably to the left of the whole; and meeting no enemy whatever, it marched on without opposition to Hoorne, which city, having been always well inclined to the interests of the House of Orange, immediately threw open its gates, hoisted the Orange flag on the steeples, and received the British troops with as lively demonstrations of joy as Dutchmen are capable of showing.

The obstacles that presented themselves on every side to obstruct the advance of an army in this country cannot readily be conceived from the most accurate description. The Sand-Hills begin to rise abruptly from the flats, immediately behind the town of Camp, and stretch considerably in breadth in a south-easterly direction towards Alkmaar. The plain at the feet of the hills is intersected by a large canal, running in the same direction, and terminating at Alkmaar: it is a continuation of the Groot Sloot, to which it is joined at Kirabendam. The whole plain is moreover divided into distinct portions by cross canals, which have no communication with each other. At the principal intersections, some village is situated, which requires nothing more to make it a strong point of defence, than mounting cannon on the top of the dykes, and posting troops behind them.

Third column—major-general Coote's brigade, major-general Don's brigade, and two squadrons 11th light dragoons.

Fourth column—major-general earl Chatham's brigade, major-general Moore's brigade, major-general earl Cavan's brigade, first battalion British grenadiers, first battalion light infantry, and two squadrons 18th light dragoons.

Reserve—23d and 55th regiments.

On the first ridge of the Sand-Hills, and in the several fortified villages, which connected his line, the left wing of the enemy was posted and intrenched. His right occupied the plain, which was covered by the strong redoubts he had constructed at Oude-Carspel. The bridges across the few passes that led to these places were destroyed, and abbatis laid at different distances.

At half past three in the morning, the first attack was made by the Russian column, led on by lieutenant-general D'Herman, and with such vigour and vivacity, that the enemy gave way on the outset. In vain did he attempt to avail himself of the natural strength of the ground, by rallying his scattered troops behind the eminences. The intrepid column pressed so close as not to allow him a moment's pause, still destroying or making prisoners of his rear. Thus the pursuers and the pursued poured along the open downs and hills, until they arrived at the wooded tract of country that skirts the Sand-Hills and surrounds the town of Berghen. Here the enemy, who was perfectly acquainted with the ground, found shelter and a rallying point. Berghen is situated four miles north-west of Alkmaar, at the termination of the plain. Close to the suburbs is a chateau belonging to a prince of Nassau,—the whole is surrounded by thick groves of tall trees, with roads and alleys between them at irregular intervals; so that this spot might be deemed a labyrinth, easier to enter than to get out of.

The Russians, in the ardour of victory, entered the town of Berghen about eight o'clock in the morning, sword in hand; but finding the

place abandoned, they relaxed their efforts, and, according to their custom in taking towns by storm, gave themselves up to pillage.

The vigilant enemy instantly seized this opportunity to retrieve the day. He rallied his broken battalions under cover of the woods, which were critically supported by fresh troops from Alkmaar, and, highly favoured by the situation, attacked the Russians, at different points at once, with his usual impetuosity. The Russians, who had supposed their victory complete, were totally disconcerted at this unexpected renewal of the combat. Their forces were divided and dispersed, some battalions being too far advanced among the woods, others too far retired; but the main body was busied in collecting the spoil in the ruined church of Berghen. Thus, notwithstanding the utmost exertions of their generals and officers, and the natural courage of the men, the first and second in command having unfortunately been taken prisoners, they were compelled to retire from Berghen, and to measure back the ground they had conquered in the morning, to Schorel.

Meanwhile, the second column, under lieutenant-general Dundas, commenced the attack at day-light on the village of Warmanhuysen, which was strongly fortified with cannon. Three battalions of Russians, led on by major-general Sedmoratzky, most gallantly stormed the place on its left flank, while, at the same time, it was entered at the right by the first regiment of guards. Upon this success, the greater part of the column marched on to Schorel; the remainder was detached to keep up the communication with that of lieutenant-general Sir James Pulteney.

The first column of Russians was hard pressed by the enemy in its retreat upon Schorel. At this point the Russians attempted to make a stand; but they were forced to yield to the enemy, just as the reinforcements from the second column came up to their support. Upon this, the village of Schorel was attacked and retaken in the face of a heavy fire by major-general Manners' brigade; and this brigade being immediately reinforced by two battalions of Russians, which had co-operated with major-general Dundas in storming Warmenhuysen, by major-general D'Oyley's brigade of guards, and by the 35th regiment, under the command of his royal highness prince William of Gloucester, the action was renewed for some time with success; but the Russians having expended all their ammunition, and the whole corps being exhausted by such great exertions, they retired in good order upon Petten and Zyper-Sluys.

In the mean time, that part of the second column which had taken Warmenhuysen, having been joined by the first battalion of the 5th regiment, advanced upon Schorel-dam, which position they maintained under a heavy and most galling fire, until the fate of the right wing rendered it no longer tenable.

During these sanguinary operations on the right, the centre or third column, under lieutenant-general Sir James Pulteney, proceeded on to attack the enemy's right wing in its strong position at Oude-Carspel. Here the obstacles which presented themselves were truly formidable. This place is a long village, extending three or four miles to the suburbs of Alkmaar; it is surrounded by deep canals and embankments, and its northern extremity was fortified with re-

doubts and batteries, bristling with cannon. The third brigade (major-general Coote's) was destined to attack in front, while the remainder of the column stormed the flanks. It was stopped, however, in its advance by a broad and deep canal, that run in front of the enemy's work, over which the bridge was destroyed. This brave brigade, therefore, had the extreme mortification of being witnesses of the gallantry of their fellow soldiers, without a possibility of sharing their danger. However, the two battalions of the 40th regiment, under colonel Spencer, having discovered an approach on the right, instantly prepared to storm it. This intrepid corps was received by a terrible discharge of small arms, grape, and round-shot and shells. From this destructive tempest it took a momentary shelter behind an angular embankment, upon which the enemy, supposing the British had retreated, sallied out from behind his works in pursuit. He was, however, soon compelled to face about; and was so closely followed by the 40th, that that regiment entered the lines with the fugitives at the point of the bayonet: upon which the enemy abandoned them, and retreated in confusion towards Alkmaar. This brilliant achievement cost the two battalions of the 40th upwards of one hundred and fifty men, including eleven officers. It put the third column, however, in possession of the important post of Oude-Carspel, and of the batteries and guns of the enemy; but in consequence of the irretrievable disaster on the right, lieutenant-general Sir James Pulteney found it expedient to withdraw his column the same night from that position. The troops, after a dismal and harassing march, during which they were lighted by the blaze of burning villages, arrived, at an early hour in the morning, at the respective stations which they occupied before the battle.

The same cause rendered it necessary to recall the fourth column, under lieutenant-general Sir Ralph Abercrombie, from the city of Hoorne, upon which the whole of the army re-assumed its former position. Such was the termination of the *battle of Bergen.*

The enemy, previous to this affair, had made uncommon efforts to augment his army, and to strengthen his line of defence. The actual number he was able to bring into action cannot be accurately ascertained. Perhaps thirteen thousand French and fifteen thousand Dutch approaches sufficiently near to a fair estimate.

Opposed to this force, that of the allied army amounted to little more than twenty thousand men; inasmuch as about fifteen thousand, though contributing by their movements to the general design, were not eventually engaged.

It was, and must be allowed, by every candid and impartial judge, that the plan of operations, and the disposition of the force employed, were conceived and arranged, by his royal highness the commander in chief, with the greatest judgment and ability. Of the truth of this remark, there requires no stronger proof than the events and circumstances of the action. The execution of the three grand movements was completely successful, and even of the fourth on the right, so far as depended on the exertions of the British troops. The failure there, which rendered all the other successes inefficient, may be candidly ascribed as much to the mischances inseparable from the hazardous game of war as to any misconduct of the right column.

The loss the enemy sustained in this attack must have made a most sensible impression on him; it amounted to three thousand men and sixty officers, prisoners; and it may be presumed that two thousand more were killed and wounded. Sixteen pieces of cannon also, which could not be brought away, were destroyed.

The loss * of the allied army in this battle was also very considerable; it amounted to nearly fifteen hundred British, and to three thousand Russians, in killed, wounded, and missing. The Russians also lost almost the whole of their field artillery, amounting to twenty pieces of cannon; and their first and second in command, lieutenant-generals D'Herman and Tchertchekoff, were made prisoners. The latter was mortally wounded, and died the following day.

The immediate advantages proposed to be obtained by the attack of the 19th September, obviously appears, from the movement on the left, to take possession of Hoorne,—to have been the establishment

* Total of the official British returns:—1 lieutenant-colonel, 2 captains, 2 subalterns, 1 staff, 2 serjeants, and 109 rank and file killed; 7 lieutenant-colonels, 6 majors, 15 captains, 15 subalterns, 20 serjeants, 2 drummers, and 345 rank and file wounded; 22 serjeants, 5 drummers, and 463 rank and file missing.

350 of the first battalion of the 35th regiment, killed, wounded, and missing; and 70 of the waggon train, and of the royal navy, not in the above return.

The loss of the Russians had not been ascertained when the other returns were given in: it was supposed to be 1500 men; the enemy make it four, and the Russians themselves acknowledge it to be 3000; which last estimate has been adopted. See the Russian general D'Essen's official letter in the Appendix, wherein he attempts to justify the failure of the Russians, on the supposition that they were not allowed time to recruit after their voyage, &c. &c.; as if the British troops had not a much stronger plea on that score, particularly those of the first division, who got into action immediately after a long and stormy voyage.

of the allied army in a stronger and more advanced position, and the acquisition of a larger and more fertile territory for its subsistence.

The peninsula of North Holland very suddenly enlarges itself from the narrow slip of land at its northern extremity, projecting into the Zuider Zee at Enkhuysen; from which place to that of Camperduyn, on the opposite coast, it extends in breadth about thirty-six miles. It then as suddenly becomes narrower towards Hoorne; so that two miles south of that city, at Shaerdam, it is not more than sixteen miles across. This then appears to have been the most elegible, as well as the securest position for an invading army. At Shaerdam, all the transverse canals unite and have one common sluys or outlet into the Zuider Zee; these canals at their western extremity surround Alkmaar, which city is but eleven miles due west from Shaerdam, and five east from Egmont op Zee. The country between Alkmaar and Egmont is partly a plain, and partly sand-hills.

In this situation, therefore, an army would be protected in front by broad canals, and high dykes or embankments of great solidity, running in parallel directions across the country, its wings would be covered by the two seas, and its centre by a large and strong fortified town,—while a fine and productive territory in its rear, abounding in many large towns, would have furnished it with ample supplies.

To co-coperate with the movements of the army, vice-admiral

Mitchel had fitted out a small squadron of bomb-vessels and armed brigs, calculated for shoal water, and shifted his flag to the Babet sloop of war. With this little fleet he proceeded successfully to counter-revolutionise the towns on the Zuider Zee. At Enkhuysen, Medenblie, Steveren, and Lemmer, the trees of liberty were cut down, the Orange-flag displayed, the proclamations posted, the municipalities abolished, and the old magistrates or burgo-masters, together with the former administration, as far as was possible, reinstated; and all these changes were effected with as much apathy and indifference on the part of the inhabitants as a scene-shifter would feel in converting, before the astonished spectators, a wood into a city. But how far their sincerity, in their professions of *allegiance*, was to be trusted, could only be judged of by their subsequent conduct.

From the landing of field-marshal his royal highness the commander in chief at the Helder, to the latter end of the month (September), several partial reinforcements of troops arrived from time to time in Holland, and joined the army. They belonged to the different divisions, and had either been compelled to put back, or into some neutral port during their stormy passages, or had not been prepared to sail with the rest; amongst these came, a few days after the action of the 19th, a body of six thousand Russians, very seasonably to reinstate the loss that had been sustained on that day. Two thousand of these troops were encamped between the New Diep and the Helder; the rest reinforced the Russian column; the whole effective numerical strength of the army amounting at this time, in round numbers, to about forty thousand men.

Towards the latter end of the month, the most active preparations prevailed from right to left of the line. Pontoons were constructed, and waggons and horses collected,—all indicative of a speedy advanced movement, and all sounding "the dreadful note of preparation," for another general attack. But hitherto the weather had been such as to have baffled the greatest military skill, and the most strenuous efforts. The storms and rains were violent and incessant,—the effect of this inclement season on a country like Holland, which would seem to require the utmost aridity of climate to give stability to its marshes, may be easily conceived. The roads became impassable, and the fields might be easier navigated than marched through. The enemy did not fail to profit by this suspension of operations. He strengthened all his advanced posts, which were the same he had occupied before the affair of the 19th, by additional works, and his army was augmented by daily reinforcements.

At length, on the 29th of September, the weather having assumed the appearance of becoming a little more settled, the whole army got under arms before day-light; and, at the first dawn of the morning, the several brigades were in motion, apparently for the purpose of advancing upon the enemy; but, on the right, the tide rose so high with a tremendous surf, that there was no possibility of marching along the beach; and the roads were so completely converted into a quagmire, that the troops were frequently up to their knees. Nothing, therefore, could be effected on this day, and the several brigades returned to their respective stations.

Exclusively of the hostility of the elements, the movement might,

nevertheless, have been useful, as tending to divide the attention of the enemy, respecting the true point of time and the exact place of the meditated attack.

On the 1st of October, the heavy rains having ceased, and the roads having become more passable by the wind shifting to a drier quarter, a change of position was effected along the whole line, preparatory to another general action. All the brigades on the left marched on to the right, whilst those on the right gave them place, by inclining to the centre.

Every previous arrangement having been made, on the morning of Wednesday the 2d of October, at half past six, (for not until then did the tide of ebb admit of marching along the strand,) the right wing was in motion.

The disposition of the combined British and Russian forces was materially different from the disposition and order of the 19th of September. In this action the right and left wings were composed of British troops, whilst those of the Russians formed the centre. The enemy, however, defended the same ground nearly in the same manner as at the battle of Bergen: his left, composed of French troops, being stationed on the ridges of Sand-Hills that overlooked the plain, through the villages of Campe Groete Schorel, and so round to Bergen;—but he had strongly fortified the advanced post of Schoreldam at the head of the Hoe-Dyke. The Dutch troops, as before, occupied his right, and were chiefly concentrated at Lang-

Dyke and Oude-Carspel, which points of defence were much improved by additional works since the last attack.

The British and Russian combined movements were executed in four columns. That on the right, commanded by general Sir Ralph Abercrombie, marched along the beach towards Egmont op Zee, for the purpose of turning the enemy's left flank.

The second column, composed wholly of Russian troops, was commanded by major-general D'Essen. It marched by the Slaper-Dyke to Camperduyn, and then defiled off along the feet of the Sand-Hills towards Bergen. A detachment of this column, under major-general Sedmoratzcky, proceeded from the Zuyper-Sluys, to co-operate with the British, who were destined for the assault of Schoreldam; after which it was to support the principal part of the column in attacking Bergen. In aid of the troops appointed to attack the post of Schoreldam, seven gun-boats moved along the Alkmaar canal, under the direction of Sir Home Popham.

The third column, commanded by lieutenant-general Dundas, after having seconded the operations of the Russians, was to penetrate in the midst of the Sand-Hills, and to sustain the efforts of general Sir Ralph Abercrombie's corps on the right, in pushing the enemy from his last position.

The fourth and last column, commanded by lieutenant-general Sir James Pulteney, might properly enough be deemed a corps of obser-

vation. It was stationed on the left of the whole, opposed to the enemy's right, and was intended to take all advantages of the turns of the day, either by attacking the enemy with effect, or by sustaining, if necessary, the centre columns *.

At half past six, the right column, as already observed, marched out of Petten, and proceeded along the Sea-Dyke. Its advanced guard, being colonel Macdonald's reserve †, immediately attacked and carried a redoubt in front of the village of Campe, and drove the enemy from that village, and from the heights above it; upon which it continued its route along the ridge of Sand-Hills next the sea, but rather inclining to the left. The main body of the first column was conducted, at the same time, by general Sir Ralph Aber-

* The force and arrangement of the columns were as follows:

Field-marshal his royal highness the duke of York commander in chief.

| | |
|---|---|
| First column, on the right,—three brigades and the reserve of infantry, of major-generals D'Oyley, Moore, the earl of Cavan, and of colonel Macdonald; nine squadrons of light dragoons under the command of lord Paget; and one troop of horse artillery. | Commanded by general Sir Ralph Abercrombie. |
| Second column, centre,—ten battalions of Russian infantry; three troops of hussars and cossacks; artillery. | Major-general D'Essen. |
| Third column, centre,—three brigades of infantry, of major-generals the earl of Chatham, Coote, and Burrard; one squadron 11th light dragoons; artillery. | Lieutenant-general Dundas. |
| Fourth column, on the left,—three brigades of infantry, of major-generals his highness prince William, Manners, and Don; two battalions Russians, and two squadrons 18th light dragoons; artillery. | Lieutenant-general Sir James Pulteney. |

† The term *reserve*, applied to the gallant corps of colonel Macdonald, appears to have been a misnomer, as that corps never failed to *lead* the attack in every action in which it was engaged. If it were allowable to borrow a word from the revolutionary nomenclature,—*demi-brigade* would have been a more proper term.

crombie, along the strand, close to the margin of the tide, towards Egmont op Zee.

The road leading to the Sand-Hills being thus cleared on the right, the centre columns began to move. The Russians advanced and drew up on the plain, in a line parallel to the feet of the Sand-Hills, and proceeded to attack the enemy's lines in front of Schorel; but lieutenant-general Dundas, having detached a part of the third column to support the Russian corps, marched briskly on with the remainder, consisting of major-general Coote's brigade; and ascending the Sand-Hills at the town of Campe, immediately attacked the enemy, who were posted on the heights above Schorel. The enemy did not long stand the conflict, he retreated precipitately over a wide range of hills; and, in the pursuit, the regiments * composing this brave and steady brigade became necessarily separated.

While major-general Coote's brigade and colonel Macdonald's reserve were pushing the enemy before them, with equal spirit and success the enemy maintained the contest in great force between Schorel and Schoreldam, from whence, and from the Hoe-Dyke, he kept up a heavy cannonade. At length, about noon, he was driven from this position by the Russian column, supported by the gun-boats on the Alkmaar canal, and by major-general Burrard's brigade, which last took possession of Schoreldam.

At this juncture, field-marshal his royal highness the commander

* The 2d or Queen's, 27th, 29th, and 85th.

in chief, perceiving that the corps on the Sand-Hills were unequally engaged, and needed support, as the enemy from time to time rallied as he retreated towards Bergen, from whence also he received fresh succours, immediately ordered the brigade of major-general lord Chatham to advance from the plain to sustain them. This movement was executed with great effect; the brigade arrived critically to the support of the 85th regiment; and then, by extending its line, it was enabled to out-flank the enemy, who was thus driven from the left range of Sand-Hills, and forced to take shelter in the thick woods that line their eastern border. Protected by the woods, the enemy again rallied, and attempted to regain his position on the heights by a particular pass which led between them. This pass was defended by the 85th regiment; and, notwithstanding the reiterated attempts to force it, this gallant corps maintained its position the remainder of the day. In like manner was the 27th attacked in a similar position; but the reception the enemy met with was so warm, that, after having experienced one repulse, he did not choose to renew the attack.

It was now three o'clock in the afternoon, when the third column possessed the ranges of Sand-Hills quite across, from the wood of Bergen to the sea, where it joined the reserve of colonel Macdonald.

Meanwhile the enemy having rallied at Bergen, once more appeared in great force in front, occupying a long ridge which stretched across a sandy plain, from right to left. From this formidable position it was absolutely necessary to dislodge him. A general charge was ordered; this charge was bravely led on by the 29th regiment, and briskly followed up by the whole line; and, notwith-

standing the ascent was to be gained amidst a terrible discharge of musquetry, cannon, and howitzers, the position was carried, and the enemy effectually expelled from his last position on the Sand-Hills.

Whilst these arduous conflicts were maintained in the neighbourhood of Bergen, the first column, under general Sir Ralph Abercrombie, proceeded along the strand, with little opposition, to within a mile of Egmont op Zee.

The enemy, who had constantly kept an eye upon this corps, always found means to establish a strong body of troops in its front.

The hills surrounding Egmont op Zee might almost be said to rise into mountains. On these hills the select infantry of the enemy were posted, whilst a strong body of his cavalry, with artillery, were drawn up on the beach, determined to dispute our further progress.

It would be difficult to find in the memoirs of other battles two adverse corps more equally matched, or a contest more hotly disputed, than in the present instance. The French were superior in numbers, and had the 'vantage ground; but the British had greatly the superiority in cavalry.

Major-general Moore's brigade, led on by that spirited officer, charged the enemy's strongest position. The enemy, however, sustained the push of the British bayonet with firmness, and charged in turn. Thus a most sanguinary conflict was maintained till the close of the day, and great numbers fell on both sides. The 92d regiment distinguished itself, where all were brave, and suffered se-

verely. Its gallant colonel, the marquis of Huntley, was struck with a rifle-shot in the shoulder, whilst animating his men to the charge. Major-general Moore received a musquet ball in the thigh; however he continued his exertions, as if nothing had happened, until a second ball wounded him in the face, and compelled him, reluctantly, to quit the field.

But it was to the inspiriting example, and cool orders of the veteran general, Sir Ralph Abercrombie, that his brave column owed its success. He exposed his person every where amidst showers of bullets, with the vigour and vivacity of five and twenty; and though two horses were shot under him, he seemed wholly insensible of danger.

The shades of evening now began to prevail, when the enemy determined to make one desperate effort.—His chasseurs very spiritedly advanced in the face of the British column, and charged with great impetuosity the corps of horse artillery. They even cut down several men of that corps, and carried off in triumph two guns. But this success was short-lived; for some squadrons of the 7th and 11th light dragoons, with lord Paget at their head, suddenly issuing out from a recess between two sand-hills, charged them at full gallop. The French cavalry, wholly incapable of sustaining the shock, were either cut to pieces, or rushed into the sea, to avoid the British sabres. A small proportion, favoured by the approaching darkness, effected an escape—without making any attempt to carry off their prize cannon.

About sun-set, the reserve under colonel Macdonald joined the first column, to which it had been attached in the morning; upon which, the enemy yielded up the well-fought ground, and retired towards Beverwick.

Whilst the right and centre columns were every where victorious, the column stationed on the left, under lieutenant-general Sir James Pulteney, though not engaged, had been useful in overawing the enemy's right, so that he could by no means detach any troops to the support of his left, which had been in the utmost need of them.

Although the action might be said to have been decided at sun-set, yet the firing between the flank companies of major-general Coote's brigade and those of the enemy, posted in a small angular wood, did not cease before eleven o'clock at night. Nor was it till the break of day, of the 3d October, that the enemy withdrew all his troops, which were strongly posted in the woods about Bergen, and retreated across the flat lands towards Alkmaar.

The force the enemy was able to oppose to the combined armies in this battle was computed at five and twenty thousand men, of which about fifteen thousand were French. It was these last troops that maintained the fight; for the Dutch and our left wing were very little, if at all, engaged. The enemy's loss must have been great from the important consequences of the victory. It was supposed to amount to about three thousand. Seven pieces of cannon and three hundred prisoners remained with the victors. Generals Brune (in chief), and

Vandamme, commanded the left wing of the enemy; Daendels the right.

As the British were much more engaged in this action than the Russians, so their loss was proportionably greater. Indeed it exceeded that of any single battle in which a British army was concerned during the whole war. It amounted to near sixteen hundred men, including twelve officers killed, and one major-general and seventy-nine officers wounded. The Russians lost six hundred men; one of their generals was also wounded *.

In this engagement, the very judicious disposition which was made of the allied forces, by field-marshal his royal highness the duke of York, appears strikingly evident. From the experience of the 19th September, great advantages were derived:—for by placing British troops on the right, and directing the most vigorous efforts against the enemy's left, composed wholly of French, his right was uncovered, and left unprotected. It must consequently have surrendered, notwithstanding the strength of its position, had it attempted to maintain its ground. The Dutch troops, therefore, that composed the right wing, following the fate of the field, evacuated their works during the night, and retreated beyond Alkmaar.

* Total of the official returns:—1 major, 5 captains, 5 subalterns, 11 serjeants, 215 rank and file, and 44 horses, killed; 1 lieutenant of the navy and 3 seamen drowned; 1 major-general, 2 colonels, 2 lieutenant-colonels, 3 majors, 22 captains, 39 subalterns, 1 staff, 46 serjeants, 7 drummers, and 980 rank and file, and 78 horses, wounded; 1 captain, 4 subalterns, 7 serjeants, 3 drummers, 178 rank and file, and 3 horses, missing.

Russians,—170 killed or missing; 423 wounded; 50 horses killed.

On the night of the 2d October, the combined British and Russian army occupied the scene of action, and lay upon their arms; and, on the next day, the whole line advanced, and took possession of all the places which the enemy had abandoned; namely, Oude-Carspel, Bergen, Alkmaar, Egmont op den Hoef, and Egmont op Zee. Such was the result of the well-contested *battle of Alkmaar* *.

This affair proved more decisive than could well have been expected, from the obstinacy with which it was disputed. The enemy retired upon his last position in North Holland, the pass of Beverwyck; and the whole peninsula was considered as subdued by the possession of Alkmaar, its capital.

Alkmaar (or Alcmaer), lately the seat of the provincial states of North Holland, is a city of considerable size and strength, situated in a fertile plain, five miles from the Ocean, twelve from the Zuider Zee, eighteen north-west of Amsterdam, fifteen north of Haarlem, and twenty-six miles due south of the Helder. It is encompassed with a thick wall, faced with brick, about three miles in circumference, and strengthened with bastions at regular intervals, outside of which is a broad and deep fosse, always full of water. The town is intersected with canals, whose quays are lined with large warehouses. The streets are considered, even in Holland, as remark-

* This action has been termed, " The Battle of Alkmaar," as much for the sake of distinction, as because that place fell in consequence of it. But as battles derive their appellations most commonly from vicinity,—in strictness, this ought to be called the *Second* Battle of Bergen.

able for neatness and cleanliness. The houses are built in the old style; but they look so fresh and gay, with paint and varnish, that they appear as if but just finished,—although there are very few of them which can boast a more modern date than two hundred years. The public buildings, however, though of a mixed style of architecture, have an imposing effect, especially the cathedral, with its lofty roof. The environs of Alkmaar are remarkably pleasant; the town is surrounded by groves of fine tall trees, with broad avenues leading to the ramparts in radiated directions. The intervals are laid out in gardens, ornamented with a variety of summer-houses in the Chinese style. Formerly, the cultivation of flowers was carried on here to a most extravagant degree. An imaginary value was annexed to those fanciful but transitory productions of horticulture, equal to that which the world had consented to bestow on gems and pearls; and a tulip-root was considered as a suitable dowry with the daughter of a burgomaster. This frivolous pursuit, in which Dutch œconomy lavished its superfluous wealth, was, however, a striking proof of the profound tranquillity and exuberant prosperity of the country. At present, butter and cheese, which are reckoned the best in Holland, are the staple commodities of Alkmaar. Few places on the surface of the globe, except, perhaps, some parts of China, could boast with Alkmaar, that they had enjoyed an undisturbed repose for 226 years; for so long is it since the town was besieged by the Spaniards, after the taking of Haarlem in 1573. On that occasion the women excelled the men in acts of heroism,—they fought,—mounted guard, and underwent all the fatigues of garrison-duty, without regarding the weaknesses of their sex. The Spaniards were

at length obliged to raise the siege, with disgrace, after having invested the town for three months. At present the place, with a strong garrison, might be capable of arresting the progress of an army for a short time, provided the inhabitants consented to submit to the consequences of a bombardment.

On the British troops entering Alkmaar, they found the gates thrown wide open, and they were further welcomed by a display of Orange flags, and by the chimes of the cathedral tinkling "God save the king." Stores, forage, and provisions in abundance, were found laid up there: on this occasion, also, several Dutch troops joined the standard of the prince of Orange. Head-quarters were forthwith established at Alkmaar; the old magistracy were, as far as possible, reinstated; and, on the part of the British, a town-major was likewise appointed.

With this successful progress by land, the flotilla, fitted out by vice-admiral Mitchel on the Zuider Zee, kept equal pace. A small detached squadron, under the command of captain Bolton of the Wolverene, proceeded against the town of Lemmer, the garrison of which seemed determined on resistance, having rejected the summons to surrender, and planted cannon on the pier-head. Upon which, the armed vessels, with some difficulty, owing to the shoal water, brought their broad-sides to bear on the place, and soon drove the enemy from his guns. Immediately, possession was taken of the town by a party of British seamen. This little force however, which did not amount to two hundred men, was attacked the next morning

on all sides by very superior numbers. The enemy, notwithstanding, was vigorously repulsed with considerable loss on his side; but on the part of the British without the loss of a man.

After these rapid successes, the flotilla coasted onwards to the entrance of the Pampus (the channel leading to the Wye), where it captured four gun-boats, being part of the force destined for the defence of the capital by water.

After the loss of the battle of Alkmaar, the enemy concentrated all his forces, so as to cover a more contracted line of defence; for he seemed determined to risk another engagement before he should betake himself to his last strong position near Beverwick.

The situation of Beverwick is at the head of the inlet of the Zuider Zee, called the Wye (or Y), which divides North from South Holland, rendering the former a peninsula. The isthmus that connects these two divisions of the province begins at that town; from which to Wyck op Zee on the Ocean it is three miles. It is, however, seven miles in depth from Beverwick to the city of Haarlem. The pass being further strengthened on the east by a chain of villages running along the Lake of Haarlem, and on the western side by the Sand-Hills and the Ocean. The estuary of the Wye communicates with the Lake of Haarlem, a few miles to the west of Amsterdam, by water-works of stupendous construction; by means of which all the waters of the Zuider Zee might be poured down on the southern provinces. By having the command of so extensive an

inland navigation, centering at Beverwick, the troops of the enemy received supplies and reinforcements from Haarlem and the capital with great ease and expedition.

It was therefore, undoubtedly, the interests of the allied forces to follow up their recent successes by another vigorous attack on the enemy, without allowing him time to receive his expected reinforcements, or to fortify himself in the strong passes of Beverwick.

From the 3d to the 6th of October, the combined British and Russian troops were suffered to enjoy a short respite from their excessive fatigues; part being quartered at Alkmaar, and part cantoned in villages and farm-houses between that town and the sea.

On the morning of the 6th October, the advanced posts of the allied army pushed forward from the villages of Egmont, to gain more favourable positions in front, preparatory to a general movement. Possession was taken, with little opposition, of the villages of Schermerhoorn, Acher-Sloot, Limmon, Baccum, and of the Sand-Hills near Wyck op Zee; all these posts being in front of Beverwyck. At length the Russian column, under the command of major-general D'Essen, attempting to gain the heights near the post of Baccum, was firmly opposed, and afterwards vigorously attacked by a strong body of the enemy's troops. Upon which the British column on the right, commanded by general Sir Ralph Abercrombie, marched up to the support of the Russians; and the enemy at the same time sustaining his advanced corps by fresh forces,—the action,

though perhaps not intended to have been fought on that day, became general along the whole line, from Lemmon to the Ocean, and was contested on both sides with the greatest fury and obstinacy.

About two o'clock in the afternoon, the right and centre of the allied army began to lose ground, and to retire upon the villages of Egmont. There, however, the British and Russian columns made a determined stand, and vigorously repulsed the enemy in their turn. Meanwhile, the brigade of major-general Coote had marched out of Bergen in the morning, and, passing by Alkmaar, and through the village of Heyloo, took up a position at Limmon, where it maintained itself the whole day with so good a countenance, by the assistance of a few field-pieces and howitzers, that the enemy was held effectively in check on that side.

Evening now set in, accompanied with deluges of rain, yet still the engagement continued with changeable success, but with unabating obstinacy. Even the darkness of the night, combined with the severity of the weather, did not terminate it. The fire of the small arms was incessant, and became quite vivid, running along the undulating line of the hills, and extending in various directions into the plain, whilst the gloomy horizon was every now and then illuminated by the flashes of the cannon, and the curved train of fire of the shells. At length, about ten o'clock at night, the firing entirely ceased, the enemy every where retired, and the allied army was left in undisturbed possession of the scene of action.

The British and Russian troops lay on their arms all night, occu-

pying the ground where the action terminated, which was on the heights a little to the south of the villages of Egmont. The enemy fell back upon his positions in front of Beverwyck, having fixed his head-quarters at Castricum.—Such was the indecisive *battle of Egmont.*

In this, as in the last battle, their country has to regret the fate of many brave and valuable men, who were deprived of life, or disabled by wounds in its service. Major-general Hutchinson received a rifle ball in his thigh; lieutenant-colonel Bainbridge of the 20th, and lieutenant-colonel Dickson of the 4th, were killed during the action; and colonel Maitland of the guards, and major Campbell of the 20th, died afterwards of the wounds they received in it.

The regiments that chiefly suffered were,—the third battalion 1st guards, the three battalions 4th foot, the two battalions 20th foot, and the 31st and 63d regiments. The loss of the British, in killed, wounded, and missing, amounted to upwards of fourteen hundred, including seventy officers. That of the Russians was between eleven and twelve hundred men *.

Five hundred prisoners, mostly Batavians, fell into our hands; but of the loss of the enemy, in killed and wounded, no estimate could be

* Total of official returns:—2 lieutenant-colonels, 2 subalterns, 3 serjeants, 1 drummer, 83 rank and file, 7 horses, killed; 1 major-general, 1 colonel, 1 lieutenant-colonel, 3 majors, 7 captains, 23 subalterns, 1 staff, 23 serjeants, 666 rank and file, and 13 horses, wounded; 2 lieutenant-colonels, 1 major, 5 captains, 7 subalterns, 13 serjeants, 2 drummers, and 569 rank and file, missing.

Russians,—382 killed or missing, and 735 wounded.

formed, as that is a circumstance which he is ever most sedulous to conceal.—It was supposed to equal his loss on the 2d of October.

The allied army now found itself placed in a situation so critical, that it required the greatest military talents, joined with the maturest experience, to direct its future operations. Directly opposed to it lay the enemy, in a position almost impregnable, and confident, from an accession of strength, having been just reinforced by six thousand French troops. A naked, barren, and exhausted country extended all around, thinly scattered with a few ruined villages that scarcely afforded a scanty shelter for the wounded. The right wing of the allied army was indeed protected by the Ocean; but a considerable body of troops threatened the left, which the enemy had detached to the strong little city of Purmerend, where it occupied an inaccessible position, surrounded with water, being prepared to act either on our flank, or on the rear, should the allied army advance; or, in case of necessity, this hostile corps might easily effect its retreat upon the Wye, and so across the Ferry to Amsterdam.

To these formidable local obstacles, there were super-added others, proceeding from accidental causes, even still more formidable.—The weather had set in, since the evening of the 6th October, with increased inclemency; the clouds discharged themselves in torrents; and the roads were so entirely broken up, that the urgent necessities of the troops could not, with the utmost exertions, be presently relieved. To these complicated evils the whole army lay exposed on the unsheltered sand-hills,—their arms and ammunition spoiled, and their cloaths drenched with rain-water.

Impelled by such imperious circumstances, and actuated by just and humane feelings, his royal highness the commander in chief, with the concurrence of general Sir Ralph Abercrombie, and the lieutenant-generals of the army, was induced to withdraw the troops from their advanced position, and to retire to the former position upon the Zype.

It might be alleged, in favour of maintaining our ground, that the severity of the weather bore equally hard upon the enemy; that he was moreover disheartened by two successive defeats; so that it was not probable he would venture to disturb us in our situation; and that the large and commodious town of Alkmaar would have afforded quarters for a number of our troops, and supplies for them all.

But it must be remembered, that the relative situation of the two hostile armies were widely different;—the enemy occupied comparatively but a short line of defence; his advanced posts could be frequently relieved, and his rear was supported and sheltered by a chain of villages, extending to the gates of Haarlem; from which city, and from Amsterdam, supplies in abundance were easily and speedily conveyed. Thus the enemy was enabled to seize every favourable occasion to act offensively, whilst his situation gave him the most decided advantages, in acting on the defensive.

With respect to the propriety of retaining Alkmaar, it may be observed, that that place would always follow the fortune of the field,—so that, in the event of a serious reverse, the garrison would inevitably be cut off, and be obliged to surrender on any terms.

But in order to take a fair retrospect of the plan and conduct of the expedition in every possible point of view, it may be here worth enquiring, whether it would not have been more practicable and advantageous to have rather carried on the military operations by the coast of the Zuider Zee, and to have attempted to gain an access to the capital, in conjunction with the fleet, by that route?

In support of this plan, at least, the passive concurrence of the inhabitants might be relied on;—for, in the party feuds which convulsed the whole country prior to the revolution, the towns on the Zuider Zee, namely, Medinblick, Enkheuysen, Hoorne, and Edam, were in the interests of the House of Orange, or rather supporters of the prerogatives of the Stadtholder. On the other hand, Monnikendam was an exception; for that town, together with Purmerend and Alkmaar, were inveterately hostile to the prince of Orange, and violent upholders of the democracy.

Favoured by the inhabitants of the eastern coast, and supported by a fleet on the Zuider Zee, an invading army might possibly advance by this route, without interruption, even to the dykes of the Wye. But then, if it unfortunately suffered a repulse in its attempt on the capital, it would be liable to be cooped up in an angle of the peninsula, without a possibility of escaping, where it would run the hazard of being either starved or slaughtered into a surrender.

It was a generally-received opinion, that the city of Amsterdam depended for its security on the Texel, so that its fall would be the inevitable consequence of that entrance into the Zuider Zee

being in possession of an enemy. A little reflection respecting the real site of that celebrated city would prove in how much error such an opinion was founded.

Amsterdam, like every other place of great extent, could place little dependence for its defence against a besieging army on its own particular fortifications. Its high brick wall, of eleven miles in circumference, and its six and twenty bastions, would require an army to defend them nearly as numerous as that by which they would be invested. Besides, no great commercial city, crowded with opulent citizens, could hold out against the destructive effects of a general bombardment. It is not, therefore, to its walls that Amsterdam is, or ever was, indebted for its security;—but its admirable situation, inaccessible on every side by which it can be approached, if well defended, may be said to render it almost impregnable.

It is sufficiently evident that the shoals and intricate channels of the Zuider Zee do not admit of ships of the line, or even frigates, to act against the city itself or any of its fortified approaches. The firth of the Zuider Zee, called the Wye, runs, in a crooked direction from its eastern entrance to its north-western termination, for about thirty miles. On its southern side, twelve miles from the Zuider Zee, it is joined by the river Amstel. At the junction of the Amstel and the Wye the city of Amsterdam is built. Opposite the western angle of the city, and on the north side of the channel, lie the port and dock-yards of Saardam, which may be justly termed the Chatham of Holland. The breadth of the Wye is various; in some

places it is not one mile, in others it is nearly six miles over; but the approaches to its banks, through North Holland, are so difficult, and the obstacles so numerous, that mere description could convey but a faint idea of them. From the fortress of Purmerend to the Wye, the country is so completely under the power of its wonderful artificial fences, that an inclosure of a few acres may be immediately flooded without permitting the water to encroach upon the adjacent lands. The channel itself is defended on each side by redoubts and batteries, erected upon every projecting head-land; and the channel of the Pampus, which leads into the Wye, after several windings, takes a course under the shore of South Holland, where it is commanded by the fortresses of Naarden and Meuden, which defend the east side of the capital.

The marine defences of Amsterdam are also very formidable. The Wye is covered with floating batteries and gun-boats, of which the arsenal of Saardam affords ample supplies.

Notwithstanding the possession of the Texel, no motives, unless an unanimous and sincere invitation of the inhabitants, could induce the allied army to risk the extreme hazard of attempting to gain the capital by the route along the eastern coast of North Holland.

It would, indeed, be possible, by collecting a great number of vessels of a small draught of water, such as schuyts, luggers, &c. to transport an army from the Texel, or rather from Hoorne, across the Zuider Zee, to South Holland. The descent might be made near the fort of Meuden; and, after the taking of that fort, the army

would be enabled to possess the same ground, to the east of Amsterdam, which was occupied by the Prussians, under the duke of Brunswick, in the year 1787. Every thing considered, the capital seems most vulnerable on that side.

The country to the south-east, south, and south-west of Amsterdam, extending from Meuden to the Haarlem Meer, is composed of low meadow-grounds, intersected with wet ditches, which are completely commanded by the dykes of the Amstel and the Wye. Over those flat lands there are five approaches to the city, being so many roads running on the top of the dykes. These dykes are all defended by batteries, which flank them in every direction; so that an invading army, in advancing, could only present the front of a very narrow column, the breadth of the road, and not more than three or four pieces of cannon.

The approach on the west side was that by which the combined British and Russian army intended to have proceeded. It took a wide circuit; at first, in a direction due south, through the cities of Haarlem and Leyden; and then, turning the Lake of Haarlem, it assumed a northerly course, by the strongly fortified advanced post of Amstelveen. There lay, indeed, a nearer route from Haarlem, along the Track-weg, and over the great sluices which admit of the conflux of the waters of the Wye, with those of the Lake of Haarlem; but no passage could be attempted by that route, as fifty men could defend it against any number.

Nothing more strongly evinces the natural strength of Amsterdam, improved from time to time by the utmost exertions of art and ge-

nius, than its having been, from its very foundation in the fifteenth century, an asylum for the oppressed of every nation, who, there protected, were enabled to brave the greatest fury of their oppressors. The most accomplished generals, commanding the finest troops in the world, have at various periods been baffled in their attempts on Amsterdam; and Don John, of Austria, and the duke of Parma, as well as marshal Luxemburg, and the prince of Condé, have alike found its capture impracticable. Even during the recent convulsions of the country, the duke of Brunswick, at the head of 20,000 Prussians, found himself stopped in his attempts to approach the city by an handful of its armed burghers; nor could he without much difficulty have taken the place, had not the republican party throughout the seven provinces accepted of the terms offered them.

In the late invasion by the French, the city could not be said to have been taken. Pichegru, indeed, entered its open gates with six thousand troops, but certainly not in a hostile manner.

The surrender of Amsterdam, as connected with the plan and views of the expedition, should seem, therefore, to depend rather on the disposition of the majority of its inhabitants favouring those views, than from the exterior operations of the allied army,—which, after being victorious in five sanguinary battles in the course of as many weeks, had yet to attain the threshold of the enterprise, by forcing the passes of Beverwick.

On the morning after the engagement (the 7th of October), the allied forces found themselves extended over a wide tract of country.

The left wing was at Heyloo, and at the villages to the south of Alkmaar. The Russians occupied Egmont op den Hoef *; and the right wing, with general Sir Ralph Abercrombie, Egmont op Zee. In the course of the morning the troops became more concentrated, the principal part of the army assembling round Egmont op Zee.

All the day the men were busily employed in preparing some kind of shelter on the Sand-Hills against the night, such as constructing sheds of rushes, and digging trenches in the sand. About seven o'clock in the evening a very unexpected order was issued, for the troops to fall in, and the different brigades immediately to form. It was pitchy dark, and the clouds descended in cataracts. In this situation the arrangements were at length effected; but with how much difficulty and confusion may be easily conceived. About ten o'clock at night the whole army was in full retreat. The right wing faced towards Petten, and marched along the strand close to the tide. The rest of the army retired by Alkmaar. Fires had been previously lighted on the heights, at the advanced picquets, to deceive the enemy. Thus, by a sudden and decided measure, the retreat of a large army was effected before the face of a most vigilant and active foe, without disorder or any immediate pursuit, and with little comparative loss.

* Egmont op den Hoef is a place of great antiquity. It appears formerly to have been a considerable town for size and strength. It abounded with large religious edifices; but on raising the siege of Alkmaar in 1573, the Spaniards were so enraged at their failure before that town, that they sacked and plundered Egmont;—even the abbeys and monasteries consecrated by the faith they professed, and which the Reformation had not yet disturbed, were destroyed. The place, at present, exhibits extensive and picturesque ruins,—perhaps the only ruins in the Seven United Provinces.

To have gained some hours march of such an enemy was a measure of the first necessity. A retiring army, in a hostile country, under the most favourable circumstances, cannot proceed unaccompanied with distresses; but so urgent were these, in the memorable night of the 7th of October, that, if the enemy were not disabled by his recent defeats from attempting any enterprising operations, by pressing on our rear during the darkness and horrour of the night, he might have occasioned so much confusion along the whole line of march, as must have been productive of very serious misfortunes. Indeed, a general consciousness of our critical situation operated as a bond of union, which kept the whole army in some order, until they arrived at their own lines. But then, the line of march was entirely broke up, by the different regiments attempting to move off, in various directions, towards their respective stations. In the disorder which ensued, numbers were thrown out, who found it impossible to recover their different corps during the remainder of the march.

The intense darkness was still accompanied by deluges of rain. There was no sure footing; all was quagmire; but the firmest bottom, and, on the whole, the safest way, lay through pools of water, though it was impossible to guess whether the next step would be up to the knees or the neck.

Notwithstanding so many difficulties and dangers, the greater part of the troops arrived safely at their different quarters in the evening of the 8th; and those who were thrown behind dropped in

the ensuing day. The medium length of this harassing march (from Egmont to Schagen) was about thirty miles.

The enemy, as soon as it was discovered that the allied army had changed its position, dispatched some regiments of French chasseurs to observe its motions. These cavalry showed themselves within cannon shot of our advanced posts, and were enabled to make prisoners of about five or six hundred stragglers. They took also some baggage waggons, and about three hundred women, belonging to the British troops, who had followed the army for the laudable purpose of picking up whatever they could find by the way. The women, after being detained three days at Amsterdam, were sent back;—they did not complain of ill usage. The children amongst them were much caressed, and were all presented with new cloaths.

On the 9th of October, the combined British and Russian army established itself in its old position, on the great dyke of the Zype; its advanced posts being those of Winckel, Dirxhorn, and Petten, on the left, centre, and right; and its head-quarters being again fixed at Schagenbrug. The enemy also assumed the position he had occupied prior to the battle of Alkmaar, at which town he established his head-quarters.

On the following day, the enemy commenced offensive operations: he attacked, with great superiority of numbers, the posts of Winckel and Dirxhorn; from which, after a gallant defence, the British troops were withdrawn. The former, in particular, was de-

fended with great spirit and skill by his highness prince William of Gloucester, at the head of the 35th regiment, who did considerable execution on the enemy, and retired not until the party was nearly surrounded.

It now became expedient to inundate a small tract of country to the left of the town of Schagen, as it was of great importance to retain that post, which the enemy in some degree commanded, by having gained possession of Winckel.

The season now began to assume the aspect of an early and rigourous winter. It could not be supposed that an army cf near forty thousand men could be maintained until spring within the narrow limits of a tract of country already impoverished with an active and enterprising army in front, furnished with every necessary for undertaking a winter campaign.

It was therefore ultimately determined to withdraw the combined British and Russian troops from North Holland, and to return to England as expeditiously as possible.

To render safe and effective this resolution, there were left to choose but two practicable expedients,—either to flood the country in front of our lines, and to fortify the heights that command the Helder, in order to cover the embarkation, or to negociate an armistice with the enemy.

The command of the waters of the Ocean and of the Zuider Zee

was certainly in our power, by possessing the sluices at Colhorn Oude-Sluys, and Petten; but to take advantage of this power would be to destroy the country, and involve the unoffending inhabitants in irretrievable ruin,—for whose protection and security the expedition was undertaken. So calamitous an expedient was never executed by the enemy, either to protect Alkmaar, or to cover his own retreat.

This desperate measure, therefore, was so utterly repugnant to the feelings and sentiments of his royal highness the commander in chief, and so contrary to the well-known generous and liberal mode of warfare exercised by a British army, that nothing but the most urgent plea of self-preservation could induce its adoption. At the same time, it must be acknowledged, that it would be extremely hazardous to trust entirely to any works thrown up on the heights of Heuysden, or round the Helder; for should the enemy once succeed in forcing those works, he would entirely command the embarkation.

Induced by such motives, the negociation for an armistice was preferred; and, on the 14th of October, an overture was made, in the form of a message, from his royal highness the commander in chief, to the French general Brune, at his head-quarters, Alkmaar. The message met with all the attention to which it was so highly entitled; a favourable answer was returned, and major-general Knox was dispatched the next morning to treat on the conditions of the armistice.

The terms of the enemy, as might be naturally expected, were at

first extravagant. The restitution of the Batavian fleet, and the giving up, without exchange, fifteen thousand Batavian and French prisoners, were the terms insisted upon. The first demand was peremptorily rejected by his royal highness the commander in chief; but as it was concluded that some loss must necessarily be sustained, in consequence of an interrupted embarkation, a reasonable number of men was consented to be given up. The number ultimately agreed upon was eight thousand.

It was further stipulated, that the combined British and Russian armies were to embark, and quit the territories and coasts of the Batavian republic by the last day of November; and that the ordnance and military stores, which were previously mounted on the batteries within the British lines, should remain, and be preserved for the Batavian republic *.

On the 18th of October, the agreement was concluded at Alkmaar, which was immediately followed by a suspension of hostilities.

While preparations for embarkation were actively going forward, much hospitable civility passed between the general-officers of both armies; even the men seemed to forget that they were enemies, and a salutary restraint was necessary to keep them within their respective out-posts. So much more prone is the human mind to emotions of amity than of hatred!

* For the negociation, and the articles of agreement, see the Appendix.

Meanwhile the British flotilla withdrew from its station near the principal towns of the Zuider Zee. At Enkhuysen, vice-admiral Mitchel attempted to destroy some armed vessels and Indiamen that could not be brought off. This measure was justified, in a suitable address * to the loyal inhabitants, in which the town was threatened to be reduced to rubbish, if the lawful magistrates were molested. Unluckily, the enemy arrived in time to save the ships, to restore the republican municipality, and to send "the provisional regency" to prison.

On the 22d of October, the first of the troops, being detachments of cavalry, began to embark at the Nieuve Diep, and they were speedily followed by others, who marched successively into the Helder as the transports were ready for their reception.

On the 1st of November, his royal highness the commander in chief embarked in the Juno frigate, which immediately hoisted sail, and, after a stormy passage of two days, his royal highness landed, in perfect health, at Yarmouth.

By the 20th of November the whole of the combined British and Russian forces had embarked and left the Texel. Some casualties happened, and some losses were sustained in the different passages to England; but these were less than might be expected, from the extent of the embarkation, and the inclement season in which it took place.

* For the address, see Appendix.

After the departure of his royal highness the commander in chief, the conduct of the remaining embarkation devolved on lieutenant-general Sir James Pulteney, assisted by vice-admiral Dickson, who had succeeded vice-admiral Mitchel in the command of the North-Sea fleet. This arduous and troublesome service was aided by the good offices and exertions of the French general who commanded at the Helder. Every thing of value, except some cast-horses that were given to the poor inhabitants, was removed, and all just demands were satisfied. After which, some British schooners were left to cruise off the Texel, to advise ships that the British and Russian combined army had evacuated North Holland.

The exterior appointments of so many troops, in such a country, during a severe campaign, were not furnished without great difficulty; and though neither expense nor exertions were wanting, the army suffered occasionally from privations of the first necessity. The want of wheel-carriages, adapted to the nature of the country, was often severely felt, and would, on many pressing occasions, be irremediable, if the inland navigation did not, in some measure, supply the deficiency. No suttlers were allowed to follow the army until the close of the campaign. This, no doubt, was intended to be a salutary regulation; but, more than once, every article of consumption became so scarce, that the necessary refreshments for the sick and wounded were not to be purchased. Even fresh water began to fail at the Helder, and a contract was actually agreed upon to procure regular supplies from the Ems. Fortunately, the country was well stocked with black cattle and sheep; in consequence of which there was no want of fresh meat.

The hospital staff was undoubtedly selected with judgment. Great talents, and unremitting activity, were requisite to encounter the difficulties and embarrassments that every-where presented themselves, especially at the beginning of the campaign.

The first use made of the victory of the 27th of August was to provide an hospital. For this purpose, the village of Heuysden was almost entirely appropriated; but the number of sick and wounded increased so fast, that it was found necessary to convert five or six old Dutch men of war and East-Indiamen, lying at the Nieuve Diep, into hospital-ships; and, in addition to all these means, two or three large transports were employed in conveying to England some of the worst cases.

There cannot be a more striking instance adduced of the skill and care with which the wounded were treated than from the small proportion of deaths amongst such numbers. It is observable, however, that wounds received in the field of battle are disposed to heal more speedily and kindly than similar wounds inflicted under other circumstances.

Contrary to all reasonings deduced from the supposed effects of a very wet autumn, and from the natural insalubrity of a Dutch climate, the troops continued healthy for the first five or six weeks. Some few diseases of active inflammation, pleurisies, and peripneumonies, occurred during that period; and, about the middle of October, those never-failing attendants of a wet campaign—diarrhœas and dysenteries, made their appearance; they were, however, neither

so common nor so severe as might be supposed. But towards the latter end of the month, an irregular intermittent fever began to prevail, rather generally, throughout the army. This fever was attended with much debility and dejection of spirits, but its intermissions were well marked. During the passage home, the disorder seemed to have been checked or suspended. However, soon after the debarkation of the troops in England, and whilst on their march to their several quarters, this fever broke out with more dangerous symptoms:—it now became continued, and changed its type into that of the more malignant typhus. By the rapidity of its progress, several regiments were reduced to half their complements of men fit for duty. Notwithstanding such alarming appearances, from the judicious mode of treatment pursued at the different military hospitals, the fatal cases were proportionably very few; and, by the setting in of frosty weather, the complaint seems entirely to have been got under before the beginning of the year.

No attempt will be made to reconcile the different opinions respecting the causes of the failure of the Dutch expedition. The unbiassed and dispassionate reader may perhaps refer these causes to the unusual severity of the season, singularly co-operating with the physical obstacles * of the country—in aid of the formidable military force opposed to us. It is indeed remarkable, that the opposite extremes of weather, both uncommon for their severity, should have so highly favoured the views and operations of the French in Holland.

* The part of the coast of Holland chosen for the descent appears to have been more favourable for a *coup-de-main* than for the progressive operations of an invading army.

By an extraordinary frost they were enabled to gain possession of the country; and by a remarkably wet season, to maintain it.

But all these difficulties might probably have been surmounted, if the efforts of the allied army had been properly seconded, and spiritedly supported, by the active and hearty co-operation of the inhabitants.

Although the expedition failed, with regard to its most essential object, yet many important advantages were gained by it;—an hostile navy, being the last remnant of the maritime power of a nation which once rivalled Great Britain, was drawn from a position where it was capable of exciting much alarm, and added to the already gigantic force of the British fleet;—a very considerable army, which the enemy could at no time so badly spare, was detached from the great theatre of the war;—finally, the campaign in Holland was productive of additional experience and reputation to the British army. Heretofore the British troops had acted only in a subordinate and secondary rank on the continent of Europe; but in this instance they were principals: and, assuredly, their intrepid valour in the field, their moderation and humanity when victorious, and their calm fortitude under adverse circumstances, must reflect a permanent lustre on the British arms, and render even misfortune respectable.

# APPENDIX.

## OFFICIAL ACCOUNTS

FROM THE

*LONDON GAZETTE.*

*Given in the Order in which they were received by Government.*

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, AUG. 31.

LIEUTENANT Clay, of his majesty's ship Kent, arrived this morning with a dispatch from admiral lord Duncan, K. B. to Mr. Nepean, secretary of the Admiralty, of which the following is a copy:

SIR, *Kent, at anchor off the Texel, Aug. 28.*

BE pleased to acquaint the lords commissioners of the Admiralty, that I shall go on from my letter of the 25th instant, and say, It blew so fresh on Sunday that we could not approach the land; but the weather becoming more moderate on Monday, the whole of the fleet, with the transports, were at anchor close in shore by noon on that day, I shall not enter into a detail of the landing of the troops, or what happened on Tuesday, as their lordships will have that stated by vice-admiral Mitchel: suffice it to say, the troops rowed towards the shore at day-break, and landed, though immediately opposed by numbers, and from that time till half past four P. M. were continually in action. However, the gallantry of the British troops surmounted all difficulties, and drove the enemy wherever they met them.

The Ratisvaw, Russian ship, got ashore on the South Hiak, in coming to the anchorage, whereshe remained some time in great danger; but by timely assistance, and exertion of her captain and officers, in getting out some of the guns and lightening her, she was got off, and last night reported to be again fit for service.

At five P. M. the Belliqueux, with her convoy from the Downs, anchored.

This day it blows strong from the westward, with a great surf, so that I fear little can be done; but I am sure the vice-admiral will avail himself of every opportunity to carry on the service, as I never witnessed more attention and perseverance, in spite of most unfavourable weather, to get the troops landed; and nothing shall be wanting on my part towards furnishing him with every aid in my power, in order to bring the business to a happy termination.

I am, &c.

DUNCAN.

P. S. Eight P. M. The weather is still bad; but a lugger is just returned with an answer to a letter I wrote vice-admiral Mitchel this morning, by which I find the Helder Point was last night evacuated, and the guns in it spiked up. The lieutenant of the lugger likewise reports, that the general and vice-admiral had not sent off their dispatches; and as I think it of the greatest consequence that government should have the earliest notice, I dispatch a cutter with this interesting intelligence, although it was my original intention only to have sent one away after the general and vice-admiral had forwarded their dispatches; and as I have not time to alter my other letter to you of this date, I beg to refer their lordships to lieutenant Clay, of his majesty's ship Kent, an intelligent and deserving officer, for further particulars.

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DOWNING-STREET, SEPT. 2.

A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, was this day received by the right honourable Henry Dundas, one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state, from lieutenant-general Sir R. Abercrombie, K. B.

SIR, Helder, Aug. 28, 1799.

From the first day after our departure from England, we experienced such a series of bad weather, as is very uncommon at this season of the year.

The ardour of admiral Mitchel for the service in which we were

jointly engaged, left it only with me to follow his example of zeal and perseverance, in which I was encouraged by the manner that he kept a numerous convoy collected.

It was our determination not to depart from the resolution of attacking the Helder, unless we should have been prevented by the want of water and provisions.

On the forenoon of the 21st instant the weather proved so favourable, that we stood in upon the Dutch coast, and had made every preparation to land on the 22d, when we were forced to sea by a heavy gale of wind.

It was not until the evening of the 25th that the weather began once more to clear up.

On the 26th, we came to anchor near the shore of the Helder; and on the 27th, in the morning, the troops began to disembark at day-light.

Although the enemy did not oppose our landing, yet the first division had scarcely begun to move forward before they got into action, which continued from five in the morning until three o'clock in the afternoon.

The enemy had assembled a very considerable body of infantry, cavalry, and artillery, near Callanstoog, and made repeated attacks on our right with fresh troops.

Our position was on a ridge of sand-hills, stretching along the coast from north to south. Our right flank was unavoidably exposed to the whole force of the enemy. We had no-where sufficient ground on our right to form more than a battalion in line; yet, on the whole, the position, though singular, was not, in our situation, disadvantageous, having neither cavalry nor artillery.

By the courage and perseverance of the troops, the enemy was fairly worn out, and obliged to retire in the evening to a position two leagues in his rear.

The contest was arduous, and the loss has been considerable. We have to regret many valuable officers lost to the service, who have either fallen, or been disabled by their wounds. The corps principally engaged were, the reserve under the command of colonel Macdonald, consisting of the 23d and 55th regiments.

The regiments of major-general Coote's brigade, which have been much engaged, were the Queen's, the 27th, 29th, and 85th regiments.

Major-general Doyley's brigade was brought into action towards the close of the day, and has sustained some loss.

As the enemy still held the Helder with a garrison of 2000 men, it was determined to attack it before day-break on the morning of the 28th; and the brigade under major-general Moore, supported by major-general Burrard's, were destined for this service; but about eight o'clock yesterday evening, the Dutch fleet in the Mars Diep got under weigh, and the garrison was withdrawn, taking their route through the marshes, towards Medemblick, having previously spiked the guns on the batteries, and destroyed some of the carriages. About nine at night, major-general Moore, with the 2d battalion of the royals, and the 92d regiment, under the command of lord Huntley, took possession of this important post, in which he found a numerous artillery of the best kind, both of heavy and field train.

All that part of the Dutch fleet in the Nieuve Diep, together with their naval magazine at Nieuve Werk, fell into our hands this morning—a full detail of which it is not in my power to send. This day we have the satisfaction to see the British flag flying in the Mars Diep, and part of the 5000 men, under the command of major-general Don, disembarking under the batteries of the Helder.

During the course of the action, I had the misfortune to lose the service of lieutenant-general Sir James Pulteney, from a wound he received in his arm; but not before he had done himself the greatest honour; and I was fully sensible of the loss of him. Major-general Coote supplied his place with ability.

Colonel Macdonald, who commanded the reserve, and who was very much engaged during the course of the day, though wounded, did not quit the field.

Lieutenant-colonel Maitland returning to England, to go on another service, and major Kempt, my aide-du-camp, and bearer of this letter, whom I beg leave to recommend to your notice and protection, will be able to give any further information which may be required.

A list of the killed and wounded, as far as we have been able to ascertain it, accompanies this letter.

I have the honour to be, &c.

RALPH ABERCROMBIE.

[Then follows a return of killed and wounded, of which the following is the amount:]

Total.—1 lieutenant-colonel, 1 subaltern, 3 serjeants, 51 rank and file, killed; 1 colonel, 1 lieutenant-colonel, 1 major, 9 captains, 6 subalterns, 18 serjeants, 1 drummer, 334 rank and file, wounded; 26 rank and file missing.

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ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, SEPT. 2.

A letter from lord Duncan incloses the following from admiral Mitchel to his lordship:

MY LORD, Isis, at anchor off the Texel, Aug. 29.

IN a former letter I had the honour to write your lordship, I there mentioned the reasons that had determined Sir Ralph Abercrombie and myself not to persevere longer than the 26th in our resolution to attack the Helder and port of the Texel, unless the wind became more moderate. Fortunately the gale abated that morning; and, although a very heavy swell continued to set in from the northward, I thought a moment was not to be lost in making the final attempt. The fleet therefore bore up to take the anchorage, and I was happy to see the transports and all the bombs, sloops, and gun-vessels in their stations, to cover the landing of the troops by three in the afternoon of that day—when the signal was made to prepare for landing. The general, however, not thinking it prudent to begin disembarking so late on that day, it was determined to delay it until two in the morning on the 27th. The intervening time was occupied in making the former arrangements more complete, and by explaining to all the captains individually my ideas fully to them, that the service might profit by their united exertions. The troops were accordingly all in the boats by three o'clock; and the signal being made to row towards the shore, the line of gun-brigs, sloops of war, and bombs, opened a warm and well-directed fire to scour the beach—and a landing was effected with little loss. After the first party had gained the shore, I went, with Sir Ralph Abercrombie, that I might superintend the landing of the rest; and with the aid of the different captains, who appeared animated but with one mind, the whole were

disembarked with as great regularity as possible. The ardour and glorious intrepidity which the troops displayed soon drove the enemy from the nearest Sand-Hills, and the presence of Sir Ralph Abercrombie himself, whose appearance gave confidence to all, secured to us, after a long and very warm contest, the possession of the whole neck of land between Kiek Down and the road leading to Alkmaar, and near to the village of Callanstoog.

Late last night the Helder Point was evacuated by the enemy, and taken possession of by our troops quietly in the morning,—as were the men of war named in the inclosed list, and many large transports and Indiamen by us the next day. I dispatched captain Oughton, my own captain, to the Helder Point last evening, to bring off the pilots; and he has returned with enough to take in all the ships necessary to reducing the remaining force of the Dutch fleet, which I am determined to follow to the walls of Amsterdam, until they surrender or capitulate for his serene highness the prince of Orange's service.

I must now, my lord, acknowledge, in the warmest manner, the high degree of obligation I am under to your lordship, for the liberal manner in which you continued to entrust to my directions the service I have had the honour to execute under your immediate eye; a behaviour which added to my wish to do all in my power to forward the views of Sir Ralph Abercrombie.

It is impossible for me sufficiently to express my admiration of the bravery and conduct of the general and the whole army, or the unanimity with which our whole operations were carried on; the army and navy on this occasion having (to use a seaman's phrase) pulled heartily together.

Where the exertions of all you did me the honour to put under my orders have been so great, it is almost impossible to particularise any; but captain Oughton has had so much to do, from the first embarking of the troops to the present moment, and has shown himself so strenuous in his exertions for the good of the expedition, as well as given me much assistance from his advice on every occasion, that I cannot but mention him in the highest manner to your lordship, and at the same time express my wish that your lordship will suffer him to accompany whoever may bear your dispatches to England, as I think the local knowledge he

has gained may be highly useful to be communicated to their lordships of the Admiralty.

The manner in which the captains, officers, and seamen, landed from the fleet, behaved, while getting the cannon and ammunition along to the army, requires my particular thanks; and here let me include in a special manner the Russian detachment of boats, from whose aid and most orderly behaviour the service was much benefited indeed.

I am also much indebted to captain Hope for the clear manner in which he communicated to me your lordship's ideas at all times, when sent to me by your lordship for that purpose, as every thing was better understood from such explanation than they could otherwise have been by letter.

It is impossible for me to furnish your lordship at present with any list of the killed, wounded, or missing seamen, or of those that were unfortunately drowned on the beach in landing the troops, having as yet no return made me; but I am very sorry to say that I was myself witness to several boats oversetting in the surf, in which I fear several lives were lost.

I have the honour to be, &c.

A. MITCHEL.

*A List of Men of War, &c. taken Possession of in the Nieuve Diep.*

| | Guns. | | Guns. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Broederschap (guard-ship), of | 54 | Dalk - - - - - - - - - | 24 |
| Veswagting - - - - - - - | 64 | Minerva - - - - - - - | 24 |
| Heldin - - - - - - - - - | 32 | Hector - - - - - - - - - | 44 |
| Venus - - - - - - - - - | 24 | | |

And about 15 Indiamen and transports.

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ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, SEPT. 3.

Lieutenant Collier, of his majesty's ship Isis, arrived this day with dispatches from vice-admiral Mitchel to Evan Nepean, esq. secretary of the Admiralty, of which the following are copies:

Isis, at anchor at the Red Buoy, near the Vleiter,
August 30, two P. M.

SIR,

I HAVE the very great satisfaction to acquaint you, for the information

of my lords commissioners of the Admiralty, that the whole of the Dutch fleet near the Vleiter surrendered to the squadron under my command without firing a gun, agreeable to a summons I sent this morning. The Dutch squadron was to be held for the orders of his serene highness the prince of Orange, and the orders I may receive from the lords commissioners of the Admiralty for my farther proceedings.

I have the honour to be, Sir, &c.

A. MITCHEL.

Isis, at anchor at the Red Buoy, near the Vleiter,
Aug. 13, 1799.

SIR,

IT blowing strong from the south-west, and also the flood tide, I could not send away my short letter of last night;—I therefore have, in addition, to request you will lay before the lords commissioners of the Admiralty, that on the morning of yesterday I got the squadron under weigh at five o'clock, and immediately formed the line of battle, and to prepare for battle.

In running in, two of the line of battle ships, Ratisvaw and America, and the Latona frigate, took the ground. We passed the Helder Point and Mars Diep, and continued our course along the Texel, in the channel that leads to the Vleiter, the Dutch squadron laying at anchor in a line at the Red Buoy in the east south-east course.

The Latona frigate got off and joined me; but as the two line of battle ships did not, I closed the line. About half past ten I sent captain Rennie of the Victor with a summons to the Dutch admiral, as it was lord Duncan's wish that I should do so; and in her way she picked up a flag of truce, with two Dutch captains from the Dutch admiral to me. Captain Rennie very properly brought them on board, and, from a conversation of a few minutes, I was induced to anchor in a line, a short distance from the Dutch squadron, at their earnest request. They returned with my positive orders not to alter the position of the ships, nor do any thing whatsoever to them, and in one hour to submit, or take the consequences.

In less than the time they returned with a verbal answer, that they submitted according to the summons, and should consider themselves

(the officers) on parole, until I heard from the lords commissioners of the Admiralty, and the prince of Orange, for my farther proceedings.

I have now the honour to inclose you herewith the line of battle in which the squadron advanced, a copy of my summons to the Dutch admiral, and also a list of the Dutch fleet.

Admiral Story's flag is down, and I have sent an officer on board each of his ships to have an eye over, and the charge of them, as they themselves requested that it should be so.

I have also furnished them with the prince of Orange's standard, many of them not having had it before, and they are now all under these colours.

To maintain quiet among their crews, I issued a short manifesto, of which I also enclose a copy herewith.

The animated exertions and conduct of the whole squadron are far above any praise I can bestow on them; but I shall ever feel most sensibly impressed on my heart their spirited conduct during the whole of this business. We have all felt the same zeal for the honour of our sovereign and our country; and although the conclusion has not turned out as we expected, yet the merit I may say, in some measure, is still not the less due to my squadron; and if I had brought them to action, I trust it would have added another laurel to the navy of England in this present war. The Dutch were astonished and thunder-struck at the approach of our squadron; never believing it possible that we could so soon have laid down the buoys, and led down to them in line of battle, in a channel where they themselves go through but with one or two ships at a time.

I have sent lieutenant Collier with these dispatches, who will give their lordships every information, as he has been employed in the whole of the communication with the Dutch squadron, and was also on shore with me, as my aide-de-camp, on the day of landing.

I have the honour to be, &c.

A. MITCHEL.

P. S. Since writing the above, I received the Dutch admiral's answer in writing, which I inclose herewith.

[Then follows the line of battle.]

SIR, Isis, under sail, in line of battle, Aug. 30.

I desire you will instantly hoist the flag of his serene highness the prince of Orange. If you do, you will immediately be considered as friends of the king of Great Britain, my most gracious sovereign; otherwise, take the consequences. Painful it will be to me for the loss of blood it may occasion; but the guilt will be on your own head.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ANDREW MITCHEL,

Vice-admiral and commander in chief of his majesty's ships employed on the present expedition.

*To Rear-admiral Story, or the Commander in Chief of the Dutch Squadron.*

On board the Washington, anchored under the Vleiter, 30th August, 1799.

ADMIRAL,

NEITHER your superiority, nor the threat that the spilling of human blood should be laid to my account, could prevent my showing you to the last moment what I could do for my sovereign, whom I acknowledge to be no other than the Batavian people, and its representatives, when your prince's and the Orange flags have obtained their end. The traitors whom I commanded refused to fight; and nothing remains to me, and my brave officers, but vain rage, and the dreadful reflection of our present situation:—therefore deliver over to you the fleet which I commanded. From this moment it is your obligation to provide for the safety of my officers, and the few brave men who are on board the Batavian ships—as I declare myself and my officers prisoners of war, and remain to be considered as such.

I am, with respect,

S. STORY.

*To Admiral Mitchel, commanding his Britannic Majesty's Squadron in the Texel.*

*A List of the Dutch Squadron taken Possession of in the Texel by Vice-Admiral Mitchel, Aug. 30.*

| | Guns. |
|---|---|
| Washington—rear-admiral Story, captain Capelle - | 74 |
| Guelderland—captain Waldeck - - - - - | 68 |
| Admiral de Ruyter—captain Huijs - - - | 68 |
| Utrecht—captain Kolf - - - - - - - - | 68 |

| Ship | Guns. |
|---|---|
| Cerberus—captain de Jong | 68 |
| Leyden—captain Van Braam | 68 |
| Bechermer—captain Eilbracht | 54 |
| Batavier—captain Van Senden under the Vleiter. | 54 |
| Amphitrite—captain Schutter under the Vleiter. | 44 |
| Mars—captain de Beck, | 44 |
| Ambuscade—captain Riverij | 32 |
| Galatea—captain Droop | 16 |

Isis, Aug. 30, 1799.

THE undersigned, vice-admiral in the service of his majesty the King of Great Britain, charged with the execution of the naval part of the expedition to restore the Stadtholder, and the old and lawful constitution of the Seven United Provinces, guaranteed by his majesty, having agreed that, in consequence of the summons to rear-admiral Story, the ships, after hoisting the ancient colours, will be considered as in the service of the allies of the British crown, and under the orders of his serene highness the hereditary Stadtholder, captain and admiral-general of the Seven United Provinces, has thought it proper to give an account of this agreement to the brave crews of the different ships, and to summon them by the same to behave in a peaceable and orderly manner, so that no complaints may be represented by the officer the undersigned will send on board each of the ships to keep proper order, until the intentions of his majesty, and his serene highness the prince of Orange, as admiral-general, shall be known, for the farther destination of these ships, on account of which dispatches will be immediately sent off. And to make them aware, that in case their conduct should not be so as may be expected from the known loyalty and attachment of the Dutch navy to the illustrious House of Orange on this occasion, any excess or irregularity will be punished with the severity which the disorders may have been committed merit.

ANDREW MITCHEL.

Isis, at anchor at the Red Buoy, near the Vleiter,
Aug. 31, 1799.

SIR,

SINCE my letter of the 29th by captain Oughton, I received a letter

from captain Winthorp, of the Circe, containing a more particular account of the men of war, &c. taken possession of in the Nieuve Diep, than I had then in my power to send, of which you will receive a copy herewith for the information of my lords commissioners of the Admiralty.

I have the honour, &c.

A. MITCHEL.

SIR, Helder, Aug. 28, 1799.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I this morning took possession of the Nieuve Diep, with the ships and vessels under-mentioned, and also of the naval arsenal, containing ninety-five pieces of ordnance. A copy of the naval stores I will transmit you as soon as it can be made out.

I have the honour, &c.

R. WINTHORP.

| | Guns. | | Guns. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Urwachten - - - - - - - | 66 | Unie - - - - - - - - - - | 44 |
| Broederschop - - - - - - | 54 | Helder - - - - - - - - - | 32 |
| Hector - - - - - - - - - | 44 | Follock - - - - - - - - - | 24 |
| Diuffee - - - - - - - - | 44 | Minerva - - - - - - - - | 24 |
| Expedition - - - - - - - | 44 | Venus - - - - - - - - - | 24 |
| Constitutie - - - - - - - | 44 | Alarm - - - - - - - - - | 24 |
| Belle Antionette - - - - - | 44 | | |

Dreishlerlahn, Howda, Vreedelust, Indiamen; and a sheer-hulk.

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DOWNING-STREET, SEPT. 9.

A dispatch, of which the following is an extract, has been received from lieutenant-general Sir Ralph Abercrombie, by the right honourable Henry Dundas, one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state.

Head Quarters, Schagen-brug, Sept. 4.

FROM the 27th of August to the 1st of September, the troops continued to occupy the Sand-Hills on which they fought. On that day the army marched and took post with its right to Petten on the German Ocean, and its left to Oude-Sluys on the Zuider Zee, with the canal of the Zype in front.

A better country is now open to us. We have found some horses and waggons, and a plentiful supply of fresh provisions.

The troops continue healthty, and behave extremely well.

The 11th regiment of dragoons are arrived, and have begun to disembark. The transports have been ordered to return to the Downs.

I have the honour to inclose herewith a return of the artillery, ammunition, and engineers' stores captured at the Helder.

[Then follows the retu rnf ordnance, &c.]

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DOWNING-STREET, SEPT. 16.

A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, was this morning received from lieutenant-general Sir Ralph Abercrombie, K. B. at the office of the right honourable Henry Dundas, one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state.

Head-Quarters, Schagen-brûg,
Sept. 11, 1799.

SIR,

HAVING fully considered the position which the British troops had occupied on the 1st inst. and having in view the certainty of speedy and powerful reinforcements, I determined to remain until then on the defensive.

From the information which we had received, we were apprised of the enemy's intention to attack us, and we were daily improving the advantages of our situation.

Yesterday morning at day-break the enemy commenced an attack on our centre and right, from St. Maarten's to Petten, in three columns, and apparently with their whole force.

The column on the right, composed of Dutch troops, and under the command of general Daendels, directed its attack on the village of St Maarten's.

The centre column of the enemy, under the orders of general de Monceau, likewise composed of Dutch troops, marched on to Crabbendam and Zyper-Sluys.

The left column of the enemy, composed of French, directed itself on the position occupied by major-general Burrard, commanding the second brigade of guards.

The enemy advanced, particularly on their left and centre, with great intrepidity, and penetrated with the heads of their columns to within a hundred yards of the post occupied by the British troops. They were, however, every-where repulsed, owing to the strength of our position, and the determined courage of the troops. About ten o'clock the enemy retired towards Alkmaar, leaving behind them many dead and some wounded men, with one piece of cannon, a number of waggons, pontoons, and portable bridges. Colonel Macdonald with the reserve pursued them for some time, and quickened their retreat.

It is impossible for me to do full justice to the good conduct of the troops.

Colonel Spencer, who commanded in the village of St. Maarten's, defended his post with great spirit and judgment.

Major-general Moore, who commanded on his right, and who was wounded, though I am happy to say slightly, was no less judicious in the management of the troops under his command.

The two battalions of the 20th regiment, posted opposite to Crabbendam and Zyper-Sluys, did credit to the high reputation which that regiment has always borne. Lieutenant-colonel Smyth of that corps, who had the particular charge of that post, received a severe wound in his leg, which will deprive us for a time of his services.

The two brigades of guards repulsed with great vigour the column of French which had advanced to attack them, and where the slaughter of the enemy was great.

I continue to receive every mark of zeal and intelligence from the officers composing the staff of this army.

It is difficult to state with any precision the loss of the enemy, but it cannot be computed at less than 800 or 1000 men; and on our side it does not exceed, in killed, wounded, and missing, 200 men. Exact returns shall be transmitted herewith.

I have the honour to be, &c.

R. ABERCROMBIE.

[Then follows a list of killed and wounded, of which the following is the total:—27 rank and file killed; 1 lieutenant-colonel, 1 major, 4 captains, 5 subalterns, 2 serjeants, 131 rank and file, wounded; 1 serjeant, 12 rank and file, missing.]

*Return of Officers wounded.*

Major-general Moore; captain Halket, of the 76th regiment, aide-de-camp to commander in chief; lieutenant Simpson, of the royal artillery; captain Nevill, of the grenadier battalion of guards; captain Nevill, of the 1st battalion of the 3d regiment of guards; lieutenant Gordon, of the 2d battalion of the royals; captain the honourable John Ramsay, of the 92d regiment of foot.

Lieutenant-colonel George Smyth, major Robert Ross, lieutenants John Colborne, Charles Dervoeux, Christopher Hamilton, lieutenant and adjutant Samuel South, of the 1st battalion of the 20th regiment of foot.

Captain-lieutenant L. Ferdinand Adams, of the 2d battalion of the 20th regiment of foot.

ALEX. HOPE, Assistant Adj. Gen.

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ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, SEPT. 17.

*Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Mitchel to Evan Nepean, Esq. dated on board the Isis, in the Mars Diep, Sept. 4, 1799.*

SIR,

BY lieutenant Gibbons, of his majesty's ship Isis, I have the honour to present to my lords commissioners of the Admiralty, admiral Story's flag, and the colours of the Batavian republic, being the first fruits of my endeavours in the discharge of the duties for which their lordships have been pleased to confide in me. Lieutenant Gibbons having been unremittingly employed in the arranging the signals for the convoys, transports, cutters, &c. till the present time, he is most justly entitled to my warmest regard and esteem; I therefore beg leave to recommend him to their lordships' notice. I have been a great deal employed in the disposal of the Dutch officers on their parole, a business in which I had to pay regard to the wishes of many whom I found entitled to some consideration; I have not therefore yet been able to finish that business, which obliges me to defer giving their lordships an account thereof until my next letter.

I have the honour to be, &c.

A. MITCHEL.

DOWNING-STREET, SEPT. 19.

A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, was this morning received from field-marshal his royal highness the duke of York, at the office of the right honourable Henry Dundas, one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state.

The Helder, North Holland,
Sept. 14.

SIR,

I HAVE to acquaint you with my arrival at this place yesterday evening, having sailed from Deal on board the Amethyst frigate, on Monday morning the 9th instant.

Upon coming on shore, I had great satisfaction in witnessing the disembarkation of eight battalions of Russian auxiliary troops, consisting of 7000 men, under the command of lieutenant-general D'Herman, which had arrived from Revel in the course of the preceding day and yesterday morning. I afterwards saw these troops upon their march towards the position occupied by the British near Schagen; and I have great pleasure in assuring you, that, from their appearance in every respect, the most happy consequences may be expected from their co-operation with his majesty's arms in this country: lieutenant-general D'Herman seems to enter most heartily into our views, and I form very sanguine hopes of receiving essential assistance from his zeal and experience.

I understand that Sir Ralph Abercrombie has made you acquainted with his having repulsed the enemy in an attack made upon him on Tuesday last. I proceed to join him at his quarters at Schagen immediately.

I have had the pleasure to meet the hereditary prince of Orange here. His serene highness is occupied in arranging into corps a large body of deserters from the Batavian army, and volunteers from the crews of the Dutch ships of war which have proceeded to England. Every assistance shall be given to his serene highness, to render these corps an efficient addition to our force.

FREDERICK.

DOWNING-STREET, SEPT. 24.

A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, has been this day received from field-marshal his royal highness the duke of York, by the right honourable Henry Dundas, one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state.

Head-Quarters, Schagen-brug,
Sept. 20.

SIR,

IN my dispatch of the 16th inst. I acquainted you with my intention of making an attack upon the whole of the enemy's position, the moment that the reinforcements joined.—Upon the 19th, every necessary arrangement being made, the army moved forward in four principal columns, in the following order:

The left column, under the command of lieutenant-general Sir Ralph Abercrombie, consisting of two squadrons of the 18th light dragoons, major-general the earl of Chatham's brigade, major-general Moore's brigade, major-general the earl of Cavan's brigade, first battalion of British grenadiers of the line, and first battalion of light infantry of the line.

The 23d and 55th regiments, under colonel Macdonald, destined to turn the enemy's right on the Zuider Zee, marched at six o'clock on the evening of the 18th.

The columns upon the right, the first commanded by lieutenant-general D'Herman, consisting of the 7th light dragoons, 12 battalions of Russians, and major-general Manners' brigade.

The second, commanded by lieutenant-general Dundas, consisting of two squadrons of the 11th light dragoons, two brigades of foot guards, and major-general his royal highness prince William's brigade.

The third column, commanded by lieutenant-general Sir James Pulteney, consisting of two squadrons of the 11th light dragoons, major-general Don's brigade, major-general Coote's brigade, marched from the positions they occupied at day-break the morning of the 19th. The object of the first column was, to drive the enemy from the heights of Camperduyn, the villages under these heights, and finally to take possession of Bergen; the second was to force the enemy's position at Walmenhuysen and Schoreldam, and to co-operate with the column under lieutenant-general D'Herman; and the third, to take possession of Oude-

Carspel at the head of the Lange-Dyke, a gread road leading to Alkmaar.

It is necessary to observe, that the country in which we had to act presented, in every direction, the most formidable obstacles. The enemy, upon their left, occupied to great advantage the high Sand-Hills which extend from the sea in front of Petten to the town of Bergen, and were entrenched in three intermediate villages. The country over which the columns under lieutenant-generals Dundas and Sir James Pulteney had to move for the attack of the fortified posts of Walmenhuysen, Schoreldam, and the Lange-Dyke, is a plain, intersected every three or four hundred yards by broad deep wet ditches and canals. The bridges across the only two or three roads which led to these places were destroyed, and abbatis were laid at different distances.

Lieutenant-general D'Herman's column commenced its attack, which was conducted with the greatest spirit and gallantry, at half past three o'clock in the morning, and by eight had succeeded in so great a degree as to be in possession of Bergen. In the wooded country which surrounds this village, the principal force of the enemy was placed; and the Russian troops, advancing with an intrepidity which overlooked the formidable resistance with which they were to meet, had not retained that order which was necessary to preserve the advantages they had gained; and they were in consequence, after a most vigorous resistance, obliged to retire from Bergen (where, I am much concerned to state, lieutenant-generals D'Herman and Tchertchekoff were made prisoners, the latter dangerously wounded), and fell back upon Schorel, which village they were also forced to abandon, but which was immediately retaken by major-general Manners' brigade, notwithstanding the very heavy fire of the enemy. Here this brigade was immediately reinforced by two battalions of Russians, which had co-operated with lieutenant-general Dundas in the attack of Walmenhuysen, by major-general D'Oyley's brigade of guards, and by the 35th regiment, under the command of his highness prince William. The action was renewed by these troops for a considerable time with success; but the entire want of ammunition on the part of the Russians, and the exhausted state of the whole corps engaged in that particular situation, obliged them to retire, which they did in good order, upon Petten and the Zyper-Sluys.

As soon as it was sufficiently light, the attack upon the village of Walmenhuysen, where the enemy was strongly posted with cannon, was made by lieutenant-general Dundas. Three battalions of Russians, who formed a separate corps, destined to co-operate from Krabbenham in this attack, commanded by major-general Sedmoratzky, very gallantly stormed the village on its left flank, while, at the same time, it was entered on the right by the 1st regiment of guards. The grenadier battalion of the guards had been previously detached to march upon Schoreldam, on the left of lieutenant-general D'Herman's column, as was the 3d regiment of guards, and the second battalion of the 5th regiment, to keep up the communication with that under lieutenant-general Sir James Pulteney. The remainder of lieutenant-general Dundas's column, which, after taking possession of Walmenhuysen, had been joined by the 1st battalion of the 5th regiment, marched against Schoreldam, which place they maintained under a very heavy and galling fire, until the troops engaged on their right had retired at the conclusion of the action.

The column under lieutenant-general Sir James Pulteney proceeded to its object of attack at the time appointed, and, after overcoming the greatest difficulties, and the most determined opposition, carried by storm the principal post of Oude-Carspel, at the head of the Lange-Dyke; upon which occasion the 40th regiment, under the command of colonel Spencer, embraced a favourable opportunity which presented itself of highly distinguishing themselves. This point was defended by the chief force of the Batavian army, under the command of general Daendels. The circumstances, however, which occurred on the right rendered it impossible to profit by this brilliant exploit, which will ever reflect the highest credit on the general-officers and troops engaged in it; and made it necessary to withdraw lieutenant-general Sir James Pulteney's column from the position which he had taken within a short distance of Alkmaar. The same circumstances led to the necessity of recalling the corps under lieutenant-general Sir Ralph Abercrombie, who had proceeded without interruption to Hoorne, of which city he had taken possession, together with its garrison. The whole of the army has therefore re-occupied its former position.

The well-grounded hopes I had entertained of complete success in this operation, and which were fully justified by the result of the three,

and by the first successes of the fourth attack upon the right, add to the great disappointment I must naturally feel on this occasion; but the circumstances which have occurred I should have considered of very little general importance, had I not to lament the loss of many brave officers and soldiers, both of his majesty's and the Russian troops, who have fallen. The gallantry displayed by the troops engaged, the spirit with which they overcame every obstacle which nature and art opposed to them, and the cheerfulness with which they maintained the fatigues of an action, which lasted, without intermission, from half past three o'clock in the morning until five in the afternoon, are beyond my powers to describe or to extol. Their exertions fully entitle them to the admiration and gratitude of their king and country.

Having thus faithfully detailed the events of this first attack, and paid the tribute of regret due to the distinguished merit of those who fell, I have much consolation in being enabled to state that the efforts which have been made, although not crowned with immediate success, so far from militating against the general object of the campaign, promise to be highly useful to our future operations. The capture of sixty officers and upwards of 3000 men, and the destruction of sixteen pieces of cannon, with large supplies of ammunition, which the intersected nature of the country did not admit of being withdrawn, are convincing proofs that the loss of the enemy in the field has been far superior to our own; and in addition to this it is material to state, that nearly 15,000 of the allied troops had unavoidably no share in this action.

In viewing the several circumstances which occurred during this arduous day, I cannot avoid expressing the obligations I owe to lieutenant-generals Dundas and Sir James Pulteney, for their able assistance; and also to mention my great satisfaction of the conduct of major-generals his highness prince William, D'Oyley, Manners, Burrard, and Don, to whose spirited exertions the credit gained by the brigades they commanded is greatly to be imputed.

Captain Sir Home Popham, and the several officers of my staff, exerted themselves to the utmost, and rendered me most essential service. I feel also much indebted to the spirited conduct of a detachment of seamen, under the direction of Sir Home Popham and Captain Godfrey of the navy, in the conduct of three gun-boats, each carrying one

12-pound carronade, which acted with considerable effect on the Alkmaar canal; nor must I omit expressing my acknowledgments to the Russian major-generals D'Essen, Sedmoratsky, and Schutorff. I transmit herewith returns of the killed, wounded, and missing.

I am, sir, yours,

FREDERICK.

P. S. Not having yet received returns of the loss sustained by the Russian troops, I can only observe, that I understand their loss, in killed, wounded, and missing, amounts to 1,500 men.

[Then follows a return of killed and wounded, of which the following is the total:—1 lieutenant colonel, 2 captains, 2 subalterns, 1 staff, 2 serjeants, and 109 rank and file, killed; 7 lieutenant-colonels, 6 majors, 15 captains, 15 subalterns, 20 serjeants, 2 drummers, and 345 rank and file, wounded; 22 serjeants, 5 drummers, and 463 rank and file, missing.]

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ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, SEPT. 20.

*Copy of a Letter from Andrew Mitchel, Esq. Vice-Admiral of the Blue, to Evan Nepean, Esq.*

SIR, Babet, Enkhuysen Road, Sept. 24.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for their lordships' information, that the weather having moderated on the 21st instant, I shifted my flag to the Babet:—though blowing a gale of wind the day before, captain Mainwaring, by his great exertions, had lightened her sufficiently for the pilot to take charge, and the captains of the bomb-vessels made equal exertions for the same purpose, having lightened their respective ships to twelve feet eight inches: I left the Isis, Melpomene, and Juno, with yards and top-masts struck, having taken all the seamen and marines that could be spared from them, with Sir Charles Hamilton, Captains Dundas and Oughton, and a proper number of officers in large schuyts to assist me in the expedition; about ten we weighed in the Babet, accompanied by the four bombs, l'Espiégle and Speedwell brigs, and Lady Ann lugger, and Prince William armed-ship.

We fortunately had a fair wind, which raised the tide considerably

over the flats, though in many parts we had only twelve feet six inches. On our approaching Medenblic at noon, I made the signals for the Dart and gun-brigs to weigh and join me: and at three P. M. I anchored with the squadron off Enkhuysen, and a boat came off with four men wearing orange cockades; in consequence of which I went on shore, attended by the captains; we were received by all the inhabitants with every testimony of joy at their deliverance from their former tyrannical government, and in the highest degree expressive of their loyalty and attachment to the House of Orange.

I proceeded to the Stadthouse; and having summoned all the old and faithful burgomasters, who had not taken the oath to the Batavian republic, I instantly reinstated them, until his highness the hereditary prince of Orange's instructions were received; to whom, and to his royal highness the duke of York, I immediately sent an express, and at the same moment summoned before me and dissolved the municipality, amidst the joyful acclamations of the inhabitants around the Stadthouse, part of them at the same time cutting down the tree of liberty, which they instantly burned;—all of which was done in the most loyal, quiet, and regular manner.

I have detached Captain Boorder, in the Espiégle, with the Speedwell, to scour the coast from Steveren to Lemmer; but previous to his going on that service, I sent him to Steveren, to bring me intelligence of the disposition of the inhabitants:—he returned yesterday morning with the pleasing information of their having hoisted the Orange colours, and most of the neighbouring towns had done the same, and the inhabitants joyfully complying with the same terms as Enkhuysen and Medenblic; I have likewise detached the Dart, with two gun-brigs, to cut off the communication with Amsterdam, and the towns in East-Friezland that have not returned to their allegiance.

Our appearance in the Zuider Zee with such an unexpected force has had a most wonderful and happy effect, and given the greatest confidence to those well disposed to the House of Orange.

I shall not lose a moment's time in moving forward, when the wind and tide will permit, to complete, as far as lays in my power, what is finally entrusted to my charge.

I have the honour to be, &c.

A. MITCHEL.

DOWNING-STREET, OCT. 7.

A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, was received late this evening from field-marshal his royal highness the duke of York, by the right honourable Henry Dundas, one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state.

SIR, Head-quarters, Zuyper-Sluys, Oct. 4.

THE inclemency of the weather which prevailed at the time of writing my last dispatch, and which, as I therein explained, alone prevented me from putting the army in motion, having in some measure subsided, and the necessary previous arrangements having been made, the attack was commenced on the whole of the enemy's line on the morning of the 2d; and I have now the happiness to inform you, that after a severe and obstinate action, which lasted from six in the morning until the the same hour at night, the distinguished valour of his majesty's and the Russian troops prevailed throughout; and the enemy, being entirely defeated, retired in the night from the positions which he occupied in the Lange-Dyke, the Koe-Dyke at Bergen, and upon the extensive range of sand-hills between the latter place and Egmont-op-Zee. The points where this well-fought battle was principally contested were from the sea shore in front of Egmont, extending along the sandy desert or hills to the heights above Bergen, and it was sustained by the British columns under the command of those highly distinguished officers, general Sir Ralph Abercrombie and lieutenant-general Dundas, whose exertions, as well as the gallantry of the brave troops they led, cannot have been surpassed by any former instance of British valour.

On the night of this memorable day, the army lay upon their arms, and yesterday moved forward and occupied the positions of the Lange Dyke, Alkmaar, Bergen, Egmont-op-Hoof, and Egmont-op-Zee.

The enemy's force, according to the best information I have been able to obtain, consisted of between 25 and 30,000 men, of whom a very small proportion only were Dutch. General Daendels, who commanded the latter, is wounded. The French troops, who have been continually reinforcing themselves, and whose loss has been very great, were commanded by generals Brune, Vandamme, and Bouter.

From the continuance of the action, and the obstinacy with which it

was contested, the victory has not been gained without serious loss. At present I am not in possession of particular returns, but I have the satisfaction to say that no officer of rank has fallen. The British army has to regret major-general Moore's being wounded in two places; and the Russian army, major-general Emme's being also wounded; but I am happy to say that their wounds are not of a nature to lead me to apprehend that I shall long be deprived of the assistance of their abilities and gallantry. It is impossible for me at this moment to do justice to the merits of the other generals and officers of the allied army who distinguished themselves, as I must defer until to-morrow paying my tribute of praise to them and to the troops generally, as well as giving the details of the battle of the 2d instant. My attention is seriously engaged in making the arrangements which are necessary for occupying a forward position in front of Beverwyck and Wyk-op-Zee, to which line the enemy has retreated. I entertain no doubt that the extent of country which will now be under the protection of the allied army, and rescued from French tyranny, will afford an opportunity to its loyal inhabitants of declaring themselves. The town of Alkmaar, which is the seat of the states of North Holland, has opened its gates to our troops, and a considerable number of Dutch troops have come over to the prince of Orange's standard.

In order that you may be in possession of such information as want of time will not at present allow me to detail, I charge my aide-de-camp, captain Fitzgerald, with this dispatch. He is entirely in my confidence, and I request leave to recommend him to his majesty as an officer of superior merit and intelligence.

I am, Sir, yours,

FREDERICK.

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ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, OCT. 8.

*Extract of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Mitchel to Evan Nepean, Esq. dated Babet, off Enkuysen, Oct.* 1, 1799.

This morning a lieutenant of the Espiégle brought me the accompanying letter, which I have sent for their lordships' information. Much

zeal and gallantry have been displayed by captains Bolton and Boorder, with their officers and men.

SIR, Wolverene, Lemmer Roads, Sept. 29.

ON Friday morning, at six o'clock, I came to an anchor with the Haughty and Piercer, close to l'Espiégle, distant about six miles from Lemmer: from captain Boorder I received every information I could desire. Finding the enemy had 1000 regulars in the town, and desperately determined to defend it, I immediately gave directions for completing the flotilla, which captain Boorder, with his usual judgment, had begun. He had pressed two schouts; on board of each were put two of l'Espiégle's 6-pounders, which, with the two flat-bottom boats, and Isis's launch, formed a respectable armament. Being willing to spare the effusion of human blood, especially of innocent victims—on Saturday, at day-light, I sent captain Boorder on shore with the following letter:

SIR,

RESISTANCE on your part is in vain; I give you one hour to send away the women and children; at the expiration of that time, if the town is not surrendered to the British arms for the prince of Orange, your soldiery shall be buried in its ruins.

I have the honour to be, your obedient servant,

W. BOLTON,

Captain of his majesty's ship Wolverene.

*To the Commandant of Lemmer.*

Soon after captain Boorder's departure, I weighed and stood in shore. About nine A. M. I observed him returning, and soon after a flag of truce came out of the harbour. Before captain Boorder arrived, I noticed the gun-boats, which had been moored across the harbour, moving towards the canals: I instantly dispatched lieutenant Simpson with a flag of truce, to inform them, that I considered their removal, or any other military arrangement, as a breach of the armistice, and if persisted in, I should instantly bombard the town: before he returned, the flag of truce came on board with the following letter:

*To Captain Bolton, Commandant.*

I have received your summons: the municipality request twenty-four hours, to send to their proper authority, to accede to your demands.

P. VAN GROUTTEN, Commandant.

N. B. Please to send an answer by the bearer.

I immediately replied as follows:

SIR,

I have received your letter; and have the honour to inform you, that if the prince's colours are not hoisted in half an hour after the receipt of this, I shall bombard the town.

Your obedient servant,

W. BOLTON.

*To Mynheer P. Van Groutten, Commandant of Lemmer.*

I dispatched the Dutch officer, and informed him I was coming down into my disposition before the town. I found by captain Boorder, that the north part of the pier was considerably reinforced by some 18-pounders, taken from the gun-boats, which made a little alteration in our disposition necessary; and I was much concerned to find my brave able Dutch pilot declare, that, from the southerly winds, the water was so low, the Wolverene could not get in. Finding it a regular oozy flat for two miles, I pushed through the mud until within a musquet-shot of the shore. The gun-brigs passed a-head within pistol-shot of the pier; but both, as well as myself, were, and not in the most favourable position, completely a-ground; but seamen ought never to be at a loss. The enemy, notwithstanding the flag of truce, commenced a heavy fire, which, in an instant, was returned from every part of the squadron: the action continued nearly an hour, when the enemy flew from their quarters, the soldiers deserted the town, and the Piercer's boat's crew planted the British standard on the pier. I do not wonder at the strong opposition, as the troops were mostly French.

I cannot too much praise the valour and conduct of the officers and men under my command. Lieutenants Mends and Field led their gun-brigs in with great courage; the same with the officers who commanded

the schouts and flat-boats. I feel great obligation to captain Boorder for his assistance; but his praise is beyond my commendation. Lieutenant Reddy, of the Speedwell, and lieutenant Simpson, of the Isis, distinguished themselves particularly; the former I sent with a flat-boat to get off the Piercer; the latter the Haughty.—To captain Boorder I confided the arrangement on shore. The gale freshened fast, and it was necessary to preserve the Wolverene: with some difficulty her bow was hove round; the wind fortunately came round to the southward; and by starting all the water, with a heavy press of sail for two miles, I dragged her through the mud, steering by sails only into eleven feet water, where she now lies. All last night it blew excessively hard, the ship struck repeatedly; but using every means to lighten her, she rode it out tolerably well. This morning, at ten o'clock, I observed a body of the enemy advancing against the town along the northern causeway; I immediately sent to captain Boorder to apprise him of the danger: in a little time the town was attacked on all sides, but very soon I had the satisfaction of seeing the enemy retreat. From the mast-head I perceive the town is nearly surrounded by water, so that a few brave men, with a flotilla on the canal, can most effectually defend it. I have no doubt but a well-timed succour to these people would cause the whole province to throw off the French yoke.

I have the honour to be, Sir, &c.

WILLIAM BOLTON.

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DOWNING-STREET, OCT. 13.

Dispatches, of which the following are copies, were this afternoon received from field-marshal his royal highness the duke of York, by the right honourable Henry Dundas, one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state.

SIR, Head-Quarters, Alkmaar, Oct. 6.

I DISPATCHED my aide-de-camp, captain Fitzgerald, on the 4th instant, with an account of the success obtained over the enemy on the 2d; and circumstances at that moment not enabling me to give the particulars of that day's action, I shall now enter into a detail of the occurrences which

then took place. The disposition I have already transmitted to you of the intended attack will show that it was determined that a vigorous effort should be made on the left of the enemy, where the French troops were posted and concentred about Bergen, a large village surrounded by extensive woods, through which passes the great road leading to Haarlem, and between which and the sea lies an extensive region of high Sand-Hills, impassable for artillery or carriages, difficult, and very embarrassing, from their depth and broken surface, for cavalry, and exceedingly forbidding, from all these and other circumstances, to any movements being attempted in them by a large body of infantry. Behind these Sand-Hills, and to the enemy's right, through the whole extent of North Holland, lies a wet and low country, every-where intersected with dykes, canals, and ditches, which it rested with the enemy to occupy and strengthen in whatever manner and in whatever points he pleased, and thereby to prevent our making any successful attempts against his right. His centre was supported by the town of Alkmaar, and water communication gave him in every direction the advantage of drawing from and profiting by the resources of the country. The delays which the unusual severity of the weather at this season and the whole of our situation rendered inevitable, enabled him to improve his position by new works, which bore a formidable appearance, and threatened much resistance. Under all circumstances, it was evident, that it was only by a great advantage gained on the enemy's left that we could drive him back, and force him to evacuate North Holland, thereby materially bettering our situation, by opening the sphere of our resources and future exertions. The combined attacks were therefore made in four principal columns: the first on the right, under general Sir Ralph Abercrombie, consisting of major-general D'Oyley's brigade, major-general Moore's ditto, major-general earl of Cavan's ditto, colonel Macdonald's reserve, nine squadrons of light-dragoons, commanded by colonel lord Paget, and one troop of horse-artillery, marched by the sea-beach against Egmont-op-Zee, with a view to turn the enemy's left flank. Of the second, consisting of Russian troops, commanded by major-general D'Essen, the greater proportion marched by the Slaper-Dyke through the villages of Groete and Schorel upon Bergen, by the road which all the way skirts the foot of the Sand-Hills of Camperduyn, about three hundred

feet high, presenting a steep face to the country, much wooded, but from their summit more gradually sloping towards the sea. Part of this column, under major-general Sedmoratsky, debouched from the Zyper-Sluys, and were destined to cover the left flank of the remainder of the Russian troops moving under the Sand-Hills, to co-operate with the brigade under major-general Burrard in the attack of Schoreldam, and to combine their attack upon Bergen, with the troops upon their right. The third column, under the command of lieutenant-general Dundas, consisted of major-general earl Chatham's brigade, major-general Coote's ditto, major-general Burrard's ditto, and one squadron of the 11th light dragoons. Major-general Coote's brigade was ordered to follow the advanced-guard of Sir Ralph Abercrombie's column from Petten, to turn to the left at the village of Campe, and, proceeding under the hills, to take the Slaper-Dyke in reserve, and clear the road to Groete and the heights above it, for that part of the Russian column which marched by the Slaper-Dyke, whose right major-general Coote was to cover, during its progress towards Bergen, by detaching the required number of troops into the Sand-Hills. Major-general lord Chatham's brigade was to follow that part of the Russian column which marched from the Zuyper-Sluys, to turn to the right, and, falling into the road in the rear of major-general D'Essen's corps, to join such part of major-general Coote's as moved along that road, to proceed in support of the Russian column, covering its right upon the Sand-Hills, and from them ultimately to combine with that column in its attack upon Bergen; for which purpose these two brigades were to extend as much as possible to the right, and endeavour to connect themselves with the right column. Major-general Burrard's brigade was ordered to move from Tutenhoorn and Crabbendam upon the left of the Alkmaar canal, to combine, with the corps under major-general Sedmoratsky, its attack upon Schoreldam, which was further supported by seven gun-boats moving along the above canal. Major-general Burrard was to communicate upon his left with the fourth column under lieutenant-general Sir James Pulteney, consisting of major-general his highness prince William's brigade, major-general Manners' ditto, major-general Don's ditto, two squadrons of the 18th light dragoons, and two battalions of Russians. This column covered the whole of the left of our position to the Zuider Zee, and was destined to

threaten the enemy's right, and to take advantage of every favourable circumstance that should offer. Proportions of artillery of reserve were attached to each column, and to the Russian column about 200 cossacks and hussars. The force of the enemy was computed at 25,000 men, much the greater proportion of which were French. The state of the tide determined the march of the right column, which proceeded from Petten at half past six o'clock in the morning. Its advanced guard, composed of the reserve under colonel Macdonald; viz. 1st battalion of grenadiers of the line, 1st battalion of light-infantry ditto, 23d regiment of infantry, and 55th ditto; drove the enemy from Campe, and from the Sand-Hills above that village, and continued its march upon the ridge of those hills, inclining a little to the left. Major-general Coote's brigade, which next followed, turned to its left at Campe, and, advancing as far as the extremity of the Slaper-Dyke and the village of Groete, cleared the road for the Russian column under major-general D'Essen. Part of this brigade, in connexion with colonel Macdonald's corps, drove the enemy from the Sand-Hills to the right and front of the Russian column, and continued moving forward upon the Sand-Hills a little in advance of the Russian troops. Major-general Sedmoratsky's corps had marched from the Zuyper-Sluys as soon as the enemy had abandoned Groete, and advanced across the plain between the Alkmaar canal and the road by which major-general D'Essen moved, whose left he joined, whilst his own left was protected by the fire of the gun-boats and the advance of major-general Burrard's corps. The enemy, who had gradually retired from Schorel, were now formed in considerable force from Schorel to Schoreldam, and kept up a very warm fire from the cannon which they had posted at different points of their line. Major-general lord Chatham's brigade moved in the rear of major-general Sedmoratsky's corps, close behind which it was formed in the plain. The column under major-general D'Essen proceeded along the road upon Schorel, whilst major-general Coote's brigade was rapidly driving the enemy from the ridge of Sand-Hills above that village and to its right. Colonel Macdonald's corps had moved considerably to the right, with a view to connect itself with the right column, and continued warmly engaged with the enemy who were in very considerable force in the Sand-Hills. After some delay the enemy were driven, about eleven o'clock, by

the Russian troops, and by the gun-boats and major-general Burrard's brigade upon their left, from Schorel and Schoreldam, between which major-generals D'Essen's and Sedmoratsky's corps took post, and continued the remainder of the day engaged in a cannonade with the enemy posted in the village of Bergen, and between it and the Koe-Dyke. Schoreldam was occupied by major-general Burrard, whence he continued his attack (in conjunction with the gun-boats) upon the enemy, who was strongly posted on the Koe-Dyke. In this situation it became necessary to make a great effort to clear the summit of the Sand-Hills of the enemy, who occupied them in great numbers and for a great visible extent, quite beyond Bergen. The left of major-general Coote's brigade was then above Schorel, and the regiments which composed it were separated by very considerable intervals, and extended a long way into the Sand-Hills. The 85th regiment being on the right, and considerably advanced, was warmly engaged with the enemy, who showed a disposition to come upon the right of the brigade. I therefore directed lieutenant-general Dundas to march major-general lord Chatham's brigade from the plain into the Sand-Hills, to the right of major-general Coote's, leaving one battalion (the 31st), to move close under the hills parallel with the left of major-general Coote's brigade. This movement was admirably executed; and major-general lord Chatham's brigade having arrived at some distance behind the 85th regiment, and outflanking it by about two battalions, the line was formed, and the whole was ordered to advance at a brisk pace, to gain the heights about three-quarters of a mile distant, across a scrubby wood, and then by a gradual ascent to the summit of the Sand-Hills: the 85th regiment at the same time charged, and drove the enemy before them, who, being thus taken in flank and rear, retired precipitately towards the right, and took post on the summit of the heights which hang over Bergen; whilst the remainder of major-general Coote's brigade, having also moved forward, joined the left of major-general lord Chatham's.—The 85th regiment took post in a favourable situation below those heights, so as to block up and command the avenue and great road which lead through Bergen. From the heights the enemy were seen in the village of Bergen, and the woods and plains about it, wavering, and apparently in great uncertainty: but lieutenant-general Dundas's corps not being able to undertake the

attack of the village and woods, or to bring cannon into the Sand-Hills, the enemy re-occupied the village in force, and kept up a brisk fire of cannon and musquetry on the heights occupied by the British, and by which the latter were sheltered. A considerable body of the enemy advanced along the avenue, and made a spirited attack to regain the heights on the post of the 85th, but were driven back with loss, and that regiment gallantly maintained their situation during the rest of the day against other attempts of the enemy. A large body of the enemy having been seen moving to their left, three battalions of major-general Coote's brigade were marched beyond the right of lord Chatham's, to support him, and extend the line. The 27th regiment, posted at the termination of another avenue from Bergen, were attacked by a considerable body issuing from the woods: the regiment having, however, by a spirited charge, driven the enemy into the wood, no farther attempt was made by them from that time (about half past three, P. M.) to dislodge lieutenant-general Dundas's corps.—The extension of his line had now brought its right very near to the reserve under colonel Macdonald, who had been advancing rapidly, notwithstanding the considerable resistance he had experienced, and was now warmly engaged with a body of the enemy, lining a sand-hill ridge, which crosses the Downs in a perpendicular direction, and which body probably had moved from Bergen and Egmont-op-te-Hooff, with the view of turning lieutenant-general Dundas's right flank. Lieutenant-general Dundas, therefore, sent down the 29th regiment on the left of colonel Macdonald, close to the road leading from Bergen to Egmont; and although the enemy's position appeared steep and formidable, a general and rapid attack was made. The advance of the 29th regiment was the signal for the whole on the right of it to move forward briskly, which was done with such spirit, that they were soon at the bottom of the enemy's position; and ascending the hill without stopping, they pursued their advantage with such vigour as to drive the enemy totally from the Sand-Hills.—This was the last event which took place on the side of Bergen; and as the close of the day was fast approaching, colonel Macdonald, with two battalions, was sent to the support of Sir Ralph Abercrombie. The heights of the Sand-Hills, surrounding Bergen for about three miles, remained crowned and possessed by eleven British battalions.—General Sir Ralph Aber-

crombie had marched, according to the disposition, along the beach, with major-general D'Oyley's, major-general Moore's, and major-general lord Cavan's brigades, the cavalry and horse-artillery (the reserve, under colonel Macdonald, not having been able, owing to the great extent of the Sand-Hills, to rejoin him, after turning to the left at Campe). The main body of Sir Ralph Abercrombie's column had proceeded without meeting with much resistance in the early part of the day, but was nevertheless much inconvenienced, and his troops harassed, by the necessity ofdetaching continually into the Sand-Hills to his left, to cover that flank against the troops whom the enemy had placed in the Sand-Hills. The admirable disposition, however, which he made of his troops, and their determined spirit and gallantry, enabled him to arrive within a mile of Egmont. Here he was seriously opposed by a very considerable corps of French infantry, which occupied Egmont-op-Zee and the high Sand-Hills in its front, and who had formed a very strong corps of cavalry and artillery to their left upon the beach. The engagement wss maintained, during several hours, with the greatest obstinacy; and in no instance were the abilities of a commander, or the heroic perseverance of troops in so difficult and trying a situation, more highly conspicuous. Animated by the example of general Sir Ralph Abercrombie, and the general and other officers under him, the troops sustained every effort made upon them by an enemy then superior in number, and much favoured by the strength of his position. Late in the evening the enemy's cavalry, having been defeated in an attempt which they made upon the British horse-artillery on the beach, and having been charged by the cavalry under colonel lord Paget, was driven, with considerable loss, nearly to Egmont-op-Zee: his efforts then relaxed considerably upon the right: and general Sir Ralph Abercrombie having soon after been joined by the reinforcements under colonel Macdonald, took post upon the Sand-Hills and the beach, within a very short distance of Egmont-op-Zee, where the troops lay upon their arms during the night.—Lieutenant-general Sir James Pulteney had assembled the greater part of his corps in front of Drixhoorn, whence he threatened an attack on Oude-Carspel, in and near which was placed the principal force of the enemy's right, and could at the same time have supported any part of the line which might be attempted. Lieutenant-general Sir James Pulteney, seconded by the active exertions of the general-officers and troops under his command,

executed, with his usual ability, that part of the disposition with which he was entrusted, and effectually prevented the enemy from sending any detachments to his left. On the 3d, at day-break, the enemy evacuated their strongly fortified posts at Oude-Carspel and the Lange-Dyke, retiring upon St. Pancras and Alkmaar: the above posts were very soon after occupied by lieutenant-general Sir James Pulteney. The enemy still continued in the woods and town of Bergen, and appeared with cannon and in some force on that side of it next to the Koe-Dyke. They had, however, withdrawn the greater part of their force during the night, and before mid-day the village was taken possession of by the 85th regiment. About one, general Sir Ralph Abercrombie entered Egmont-op-Zee; and in the evening the Russians, under major-general D'Essen, advanced from the ground where (as I have already stated) they had halted the preceding day, to Egmont-op-te-Hooff. Major-general Burrard, who, when the enemy retired from Bergen, had advanced to Koe-Dyke, was ordered in the evening to occupy, with a detachment from his brigade, the town of Alkmaar, which had been abandoned by the enemy, and had been entered nearly at the same time by patroles from his and lieutenant-general Sir James Pulteney's corps.—The exhausted state of the troops, from the almost unparalleled difficulties and fatigues which they had to encounter, prevented me from taking that advantage of the enemy's retreat to Beverwyck and Wyck-op-Zee, which, in any other country, and under any other circumstances, would have been the consequences of the operations of the army upon the 2d.—Of the loss sustained by the enemy, the reports are so various, that I cannot venture to say any thing decisive; but, from all circumstances, I have reason to think it must have exceeded 4000 men. Seven pieces of cannon, and a great proportion of tumbrils, were taken. The prisoners having been immediately sent to the Helder, I cannot at present give any statement of their number, but I do not believe it exceeds a few hundred men.—Under divine Providence, this signal victory obtained over the enemy is to be attributed to the animating and persevering exertions which have at all times been the characteristics of the British soldier, and which on no occasion were ever more eminently displayed; nor has it often fallen to the lot of any general to have such just cause of acknowledgment for the distinguished support he that day experienced from the officers under his command.—I cannot in sufficient terms express the

obligations I owe to general Sir Ralph Abercrombie, and lieutenant-general Dundas, for the able manner in which they conducted their respective columns, whose successes is in no small degree to be attributed to their personal exertions and example. The former had two horses shot under him.—I must also state my warm acknowledgments to lieutenant-general Hulse, major-generals lord Chatham, Coote, D'Oyley, Burrard, and Moore, for their spirited efforts upon this occasion, and the abilities which they showed in the conduct of their respective brigades. The latter, by his ability and personal exertion, very materially contributed to the success of his column; and although severely wounded through the thigh, continued in action for near two hours, until a second wound in the face obliged him to quit the field. Much praise is due to major-general Hutchinson, for the manner in which he led the 5th or lord Cavan's brigade; and I hope it will not be considered as an improper intrusion, if I take this occasion to express my sincere regret that an unfortunate blow from a horse, in going into action, by fracturing his leg, should have deprived me of his lordship's services. Colonel Macdonald distinguished himself by his usual spirit and ability in the command of the reserve, as did lord Paget, who commanded the cavalry upon the beach, and whose exertions are deserving of every praise. Nor must I omit expressing my thanks to lieutenant-colonels Whitworth and Smyth, who commanded the artillery of reserve, and to major Judson, of the horse-artillery. The detachment of seamen, under the command of captains Goddard and Jourcoing, were upon this, as upon a former occasion, of the most essential service, in the direction of the gun-boats. The conduct of major-general Knox, who was attached to the column of the Russian troops, was such as to afford me the greatest satisfaction.—I inclose the returns of the loss of the British and Russian troops, and must repeat my sincere regret that the advantages we have obtained (however brilliant) have been so dearly bought.—In closing this dispatch, I cannot deny myself the pleasure of expressing my approbation of the staff of my army, and in particular of the exertions and abilities shown by lieutenant-colonel Anstruther, deputy quarter-master-general.

I am, &c.

FREDERICK.

*The Right Honourable Henry Dundas, &c. &c.*

*Return of the killed and wounded in the action of the 2d, of which the following is the total:*

1 major, 5 captains, 5 subalterns, 11 serjeants, 215 rank and file, 44 horses, killed; 2 colonels, 2 lieutenant-colonels, 3 majors, 22 captains, 39 subalterns, 1 staff, 46 serjeants, 7 drummers, 980 rank and file, 78 horses, wounded; 1 captain, 4 subalterns, 7 serjeants, 3 drummers, 178 rank and file, 3 horses, missing.

*Return of Officers killed, wounded, and missing.*

Staff.—Major-general Moore of the 4th brigade; lieutenant-colonel Sontag; major Calcraft, of the 25th light dragoons, aide-de-camp to colonel lord Paget; captain W. Gray, of the Queen's regiment, brigade-major of the 3d brigade; lieutenant Charles Jackson, of the 40th regiment, acting on the staff with the Russian army; wounded.

15th light dragoons.—Lieutenant-colonel Erskine wounded.

Royal artillery.—Captain Nichol wounded, since dead.

Grenadier battalion of the line.—Captain Leith of the 31st regiment of foot; captain Pratt, of the 5th regiment; lieutenant Stafford, of the 31st regiment; lieutenant Philpot, of the 35th regiment; volunteer Barrington, wounded; captain O'Neil, wounded and missing.

Light-infantry battalion of the line.—Captain Robertson, of the 35th regiment of foot; capt. Hitchman, of the 3d battalion of the 4th foot, wounded.

3d battalion of the 1st guards.—Major Coleman, ensign Spedding, ensign Campbell, wounded.

27th foot.—Captain Archibald M'Murdo, adjutant and lieutenant George Tuthil, quarter-master and ensign John Ryan, ensign W. T. Brazier, wounded.

29th ditto.—Captain White, lieutenant Tandy, lieutenant Rowan, lieutenant Bamfield, wounded.

35th ditto.—Lieutenant Nester, killed; lieutenant-colonel Ross, captain Bowen, captain M'Intosh, lieutenant Kelly, wounded.

2d battalion Royals.—Capt. Barnes, captain Hunter, lieutenant Ainsle, lieutenant Frazer, lieutenant Edmonstown, lieutenant Patton, ensign Birmingham, wounded; lieutenant Hope, wounded and taken prisoner.

25th foot.—Captain-lieutenant J. Weir Johnston, lieutenant Hugh M'Donald, killed; Major S. V. Hinde, captain George Callander, captain F. P. Scott, captain F. C. Carew, lieutenant Alexander W. Light, lieutenant James Peat, lieutenant J. A. Grant, lieutenant John Austin, wounded.

49th foot, captain Archer, ensign Ginn, killed; Major Hutchinson, captain Sharp, captain Robins, lieutenant Urquhart, ensign Hill, wounded; lieutenant Richard Johnston, missing.

79th ditto.—Captain James Campbell, of the grenadiers, killed; colonel Alan Cameron, lieutenant M'Donald, lieutenant M'Neil, lieutenant Rose, wounded.

92d ditto.—Captain William M'Intosh, lieutenant Alexander Fraser, lieutenant Gordon M'Hardy, killed; colonel marquis of Huntley, captain John Cameron, captain Alexander Gordon, captain Peter Grant, lieutenant G. Fraser, lieutenant Charles Chad, lieutenant Donald M'Donald, ensign Charles Cameron, ensign John M'Pherson, ensign James Bent, wounded; captain John M'Lean, wounded and taken prisoner.

2d battalion of the 17th ditto.—Lieutenants Wynne and Morrison, wounded.

2d battalion of the 40th ditto.—Quarter-master Philips, wounded.

1st battalion of the 20th ditto.—Captain Pawlett, wounded.

2d battalion of ditto.—Ensign Mills, wounded.

63d foot.—Captain M'Niver, lieutenant Lee Gitte, ensign Hall, wounded.

1st battalion of the 4th ditto.—Ensign T. B. Carruthers, wounded.

31st foot.—Ensign P. King, wounded.

23d ditto.—Lieutenant A. M'Lean, lieutenant William Keith, wounded.

55th ditto.—Major William Lumsden, killed; lieutenant W. H. Dixon, wounded.

Royal Navy.—Lieutenant Roward, and three seamen, wounded.

ALEX. HOPE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

[The loss of the Russians amounts to 170 killed or taken prisoners, and 423 wounded.—50 horses killed.]

SIR, Head-Quarters, Alkmaar, Oct. 7.

THE enemy, after the action of the 2d, having taken up the position between Beverwick and Wyck-op-Zee, I determined to endeavour to force him thence before he had an opportunity of strengthening by works the short and very defensible line which he occupied, and to oblige him still further to retire before he could be joined by the reinforcements which I had information were upon their march.

Preparatory, therefore, to a general forward movement, I ordered the advanced posts which the army took up on the 3d inst. in front of this place, of Egmont-op-te-Hooff and Egmont-op-Zee, to be pushed forward, which operation took place yesterday morning. At first little opposition was shown, and we succeeded in taking possession of the villages of Schermerhoorn, Acher Sloot, Limmen, Baccum, and of a position on the Sand-Hills near Wyck-op-Zee: the column of Russian troops under the command of major-general D'Essen, in endeavouring to gain a height in front of their intended advanced post at Baccum (which was material to the security of that point), was vigorously opposed and afterwards attacked by a strong body of the enemy, which obliged general Sir Ralph Abercrombie to move up in support with the reserve of his corps.

The enemy on their part advanced their whole force; the action became general along the whole line from Limmen to the sea, and was maintained with great obstinacy on both sides until night, when the enemy retired, leaving us masters of the field of battle. The conflict however has, I am concerned to state, been so severe, and has been attended with as serious a loss (in proportion to the numbers engaged) as any of those which have been fought by the brave troops composing this army since their arrival in Holland. The gallantry they displayed, and the perseverance with which they supported the fatigues of this day, rival their former exertions.

The corps engaged were:

Major-general D'Oyley's brigade of guards.

Major-general Burrard's brigade.

Major-general earl Chatham's brigade.

Major-general Coote's brigade.

Major-general the earl of Cavan's brigade, commanded by major-general Hutchinson.

The reserve under the command of colonel Macdonald.

Part of the 7th and 11th dragoons.

And seven battalions of Russians.

To General Sir Ralph Abercrombie, and the other general-officers in command of the brigades before-mentioned, as also to colonel Macdonald, my warmest acknowledgments are due, for their spirited and judicious exertions during this affair; nor ought I to omit the praise due to colonel Clephane, commanding four companies of the 3d and one of the Coldstream regiments of guards, who, by a spirited charge, drove two battalions of the enemy from the post of Acher Sloot, making two hundred prisoners. I have sincerely to regret, that, in the course of the action, major-general Hutchinson received a musquet-shot wound in the thigh, which, however, is not serious.

I have not yet received any reports of the killed and wounded, but I am apprehensive that the number of British is not less than five hundred, and that the loss of the Russian troops, as far as I can understand, amounts to twelve hundred men. I shall, as early as circumstances possibly admit, transmit particular returns.

The loss of the enemy upon this occasion has been very great; and, in addition to their killed and wounded, five hundred prisoners fell into our hands.

I am, &c.

FREDERICK.

*The Right Hon. Henry Dundas, &c.*

SIR, Head-Quarters, Schagen-brug, Oct. 9.

I HAVE already acquainted you with the result of the action of the 6th inst. which terminated successfully to the allied arms, and at the same time pointed out the necessity of the movement which produced this affair.

From the prisoners taken upon the 6th inst. I learnt the certainty of the enemy having been reinforced since the action of the 2d by two demi-brigades, amounting to about six thousand infantry, and of their having strengthened the position of Beverwick, and fortified strongly in the

rear of its point, which it would still be necessary to carry before Haarlem could be attacked.

It ought also to be stated, that the enemy had retired a large force upon Purmerend, in an almost inaccessible position, covered by an inundated country, and the débouchés from which were strongly fortified and in the hands of the enemy: and further, that as our army advanced, this corps was placed in our rear.

But such obstacles would have been overcome, had not the state of the weather, the ruined condition of the roads, and total want of the necessary supplies arising from the above causes, presented difficulties which required the most serious consideration.

Having maturely weighed the circumstances in which the army was thus placed, and having felt it my duty, on a point of so much importance, to consult with general Sir Ralph Abercrombie and the lieutenant-generals of this army, I could not but consider (and their opinion was unanimous on the subject) that it would be for the benefit of the general cause to withdraw the troops from their advanced position, in order to wait his majesty's further instructions.

I must request you will again represent to his majesty the distinguished conduct of his army, which, while acting under the pressure of uncommon difficulties, never for a moment ceased to be actuated by the noblest feelings for the success of the public cause, and the honour of the British arms.

As there are many points resulting from our present situation upon which you may require particular information, and such details as cannot be brought within the compass of a letter, I have thought it necessary to charge my secretary, colonel Brownrigg, with this dispatch, who will be able to explain fully all matters relating to this army.

I transmit a return of killed, wounded, and missing, of his majesty's and the Russian troops in the action of the 6th instant. I most heartily lament that it has again been so serious, and that so many brave and valuable men have fallen.

I am, yours,

FREDERICK.

[Then follows a list of killed, and wounded, of which the following is the total:]

2 lieutenant-colonels, 2 subalterns, 3 serjeants, 1 drummer, 83 rank and file, 7 horses, killed; 1 colonel, 1 lieutenant-colonel, 3 majors, 7 captains, 23 subalterns, 1 staff, 23 serjeants, 666 rank and file, 13 horses, wounded; 2 lieutenant-colonels, 1 major, 5 captains, 11 subalterns, 13 serjeants, 2 drummers, 569 rank and file, missing.

*Names of Officers killed.*

Lieutenant-colonel Philip Bainbridge, and ensign M'Curris, of the 1st battalion of the 20th regiment of foot.

Lieutenant-colonel Dickson, of the 2d battalion of the 4th ditto.

Lieutenant Forster, of the 3d battalion of the 4th ditto.

*Names of Officers wounded.*

Grenadier battalion line.—Lieutenant Dunn, of the 1st battalion of the 4th regiment of foot; lieutenant Hamilton, of the 1st battalion of the 5th ditto.

Light-infantry battalion.—Lieutenant Alexander, of the 3d battalion of the 4th foot; lieutenant Nicholson, of the 2d battalion of the 35th ditto: ensign Parsons, and volunteer J. M'Innis, of the 1st battalion of the 9th ditto.

Colonel Maitland, and ensign Burke, of the 3d battalion of the 1st guards.

Surgeon Babington, of the 1st battalion of the 3d ditto.

Major Campbell, captain Newman, lieutenant Stevens, and ensigns Fevel and Humphries, of the 1st battalion of the 20th regiment of foot.

Captains Masters, Wallace, and Torrence, and ensign Drurie, of the 2d battalion of the 20th ditto.

Captain-lieutenant John Wardlow; lieutenants Bennet, Puscall, Sankey, and M'Intosh; of the 63d regiment of foot.

Lieutenant-colonel Hodgson; ensigns Johnston, Carruther, and John Nicholls; of the 1st battalion of the 4th ditto.

Captains Gilman and Palman; lieutenants Deare and Wilson; ensigns Highmore and Archibald; of the 2d battalion of the 4th ditto.

Majors Wynch and Horndon, of the 3d battalion of the 4th ditto.

Ensigns Williams, Johnston, and King, of the 31st regiment of foot.

*Names of Officers missing.*

Lieutenant-colonel Lake, of the 3d battalion of the 1st guards.

Lieutenant-colonel Cholmondeley; major Pringle; captains Archdail, Brodie, Gilmore, Chaplin; lieutenants Gasley, Wilson, Deare, Wilbraham; ensigns Brown, Ellis, Hill, Anderson, M'Pherson, Tryor; of the 2d battalion of the 4th foot.

Captain Williamson, and ensign Algeo, of the 3d battalion of ditto.

ALEX. HOPE.
Assistant Adjutant-General.

[The Russians lost 382 killed or taken prisoners, and 735 wounded.]

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ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, OCT. 22.

*Extract of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Mitchel to Evan Nepean, Esq. dated on board his Majesty's Ship Isis, near the Vlieter, dated the 15th inst.*

I INCLOSE a copy of a letter from captain Campbell, giving an account of the capture of four gun-boats in the Zuider Zee, and a copy of a letter from captain Boorder, containing an account of two unsuccessful attacks made by the enemy on Lemmer; by all which their lordships will perceive that I cannot too highly extol the gallantry and good conduct of these captains, and of the officers and men under their command.

His Majesty's Gun-brig, Hasty,
off Marken, Oct. 7, 1799.

SIR,

I BEG to inform you, that I yesterday sailed from Usk, with the Hasty, Defender, and Cracker brigs, and Isis schuyt; and having reached this place by four A. M. I proceeded with the boats to attempt cutting out the Dutch gun-boats lying on or near the Pampus, and, am happy to say, succeeded in getting possession of four without the loss of a man. They each mount four long guns or carronades, and have between twenty and thirty men; one of them built on purpose for a gun-vessel, and quite new, carrying two long eighteen-pounders in her bow, and two eighteen-pounder carronades on her broadside; the rest are schuyts.

I beg to recommend to your notice Messrs. Hall and Winter, mid-

shipmen, for their spirited behaviour on this occasion, as also all the seamen engaged, for their alacrity in boarding, and good conduct after having gained possession. I have sent the Defender with charge of the gun-boats, and have the honour to be, &c.

PATRICK CAMPBELL,

Commander of his Majesty's sloop Dart.

*Vice-Admiral Mitchel, Enchuysen.*

Lemmer Town, West-Friezland,
Oct. 11, 1799.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that at five o'clock this morning the enemy made a general attack on this town in four different parts. Their advanced party attempted to storm the north battery. We soon got them between two fires; our tars with pikes surrounded them, and they immediately laid down their arms. Their force was one officer, one serjeant, one corporal, and 28 men, two of the latter killed. We had no sooner secured our prisoners, than they attacked us with the remainder of their force, 670 in number. Our little army did wonders; for with sailors and marines our force was only 157. We fought them for four hours and a half, when the enemy gave way in all directions: I immediately ordered the marines to pursue them. Their breaking down a bridge prevented their colours and two field-pieces from falling into our hands; but before this was effected, the heavy fire from the marines had killed 18 of the enemy, and wounded about 20; and in their general attack they had 5 men killed and 9 wounded.

It is impossible for me to speak too highly of the officers and men under my command. Lieutenant Wyburn of the marines, as also lieutenants Howel, Higginson, and Gardner, behaved with honour to themselves and credit to their country. Lieutenant Norman of the navy, as also Mr. Lane, Mr. Iron, Mr. Wheatly, Mr. Travers, and Mr. Petty, distinguished themselves in a most gallant manner, as did likewise the whole of the sailors and marines.

It affords me great satisfaction to inform you we had not a man hurt.

I am, &c.

JAMES BOORDER.

DOWNING-STREET, OCT. 26.

Lieutenant-colonel Clinton, aide-de-camp to his royal highness the duke of York, arrived this morning at the office of the right honourable Henry Dundas, with dispatches, of which the following are copies.

SIR, Head-Quarters, Schagen-brug, Oct. 20.

IN my late communications I have represented to you the circumstances under which I found it expedient to withdraw the army from its forward position in front of Alkmaar, within that which it at present occupies, and which I trust will have appeared to his majesty sufficient to warrant the measure. The season of the year, which has already assumed here the aspect of winter, gave me, from day to day, additional reason to apprehend that any attempt towards a prosecution of the campaign in this country could not be attended with decisive advantages, whilst the impossibility of covering the troops in the narrow district of the country in our possession during the winter, and the precarious state of supplies to be expected in that season, added to the conviction I felt, that the most advisable measure to be pursued was to remove with the army to England, an operation which, although it might have exposed the army to some loss in its execution, I judged in my mind preferable to any other which could be adopted. Under this impression, and considering that serious loss might ensue from delay, I have been induced to conclude an armistice, in conjunction with vice-admiral Mitchel, with general Brune, commanding the French and Batavian armies, of which the conditions are inclosed, and which, although they provide for delivering up a large number of prisoners of war, now in our hands, yet I trust will not be thought by his majesty an inadequate compensation for many valuable lives which must have been lost, after the object which has hitherto directed them no longer promised success; and when the only means which presented themselves of ensuring a secure retreat were those of resorting to the destructive measure of inundation from the sea, which, as it would have involved the inhabitants in the northern parts of this province in ruin for a series of years, must have been highly repugnant to the feelings, as well as contrary to the character and practice of the British nation. I rest confident that the motives which I have here detailed will excuse me to his majesty for having acted without waiting

for previous instructions from home, and that I shall have the satisfaction of knowing that my conduct in this respect has met with his majesty's gracious approbation.

I am, &c.

FREDERICK.

ARTICLES agreed upon between major-general KNOX, duly authorised by his royal highness the duke of York, commander in chief of the combined English and Russian army, and citizen ROSTOLLANT, general of brigade and adjutant-general, duly authorised by citizen Brune, general and commander in chief of the French and Batavian army.

Art. I. From the date of this convention all hostilities shall cease between the two armies.

Art. II. The line of demarcation between the said armies shall be the line of their respective out-posts, as they now exist.

Art. III. The continuation of all works, offensive and defensive, shall be suspended on both sides, and no new ones shall be undertaken.

Art. IV. The mounted batteries taken possession of at the Helder, or at other positions within the line, now occupied by the combined English and Russian army, shall be restored in the state in which they were taken, or (in case of improvement) in their present state, and all the Dutch artillery taken therein shall be preserved.

Art. V. The combined English and Russian army shall embark as soon as possible, and shall evacuate the territory, coasts, islands, and internal navigation of the Dutch republic, by the 30th of November, 1799, without committing any devastation, by inundations, cutting the dykes, or otherways injuring the sources of navigation.

Art. VI. Any ships of war, or other vessels, which may arrive with reinforcements for the combined British and Russian army shall not land the same, and shall be sent away as soon as possible.

Art. VII. General Brune shall be at liberty to send an officer within the lines of the Zype and to the Helder, to report to him the state of the batteries and the progress of the embarkation. His royal highness the duke of York shall be equally at liberty to send an officer within the French and Batavian lines, to satisfy himself that no new works are car-

ried on on their side. An officer of rank and distinction shall be sent from each army respectively, to guarantee the execution of this convention.

Art. VIII. Eight thousand prisoners of war, French and Batavians, taken before the present campaign, and now detained in England, shall be restored, without conditions, to their respective countries. The proportion and choice of such prisoners for each to be determined between the two republics. Major-general Knox shall remain with the French army to guarantee the execution of this article.

Art. IX. The cartel agreed upon between the two armies, for the exchange of the prisoners taken during the present campaign, shall continue in full force till it shall be carried into complete execution; and it is further agreed that the Dutch admiral De Winter shall be considered as exchanged.

Concluded at Alkmaar, the 18th of October, 1799, by the undersigned general-officers, furnished with full powers to this effect.

KNOX, Major-general.
ROSTOLLAN.

[Then follows a return of the killed, wounded, and missing, between the 6th and 10th of October, of which the following is the total:]

15 horses killed: 1 lieutenant-colonel, 1 captain, 4 horses, wounded; 1 subaltern, 1 staff, 3 serjeants, 33 rank and file, 1 horse, missing.

*Return of Officers wounded and missing.*

18th light dragoons.—Honourable lieutenant-colonel Stewart, captain Hay, wounded; quarter-master, Mr. Kelly, missing.

2d battalion royals.—Lieutenant Lyster missing.

ALEX. HOPE,
Deputy Adjutant-General.

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DOWNING-STREET, NOV. 23.

A LETTER, of which the following is a copy, has been received by lieutenant-colonel the honourable Alexander Hope, deputy adjutant-general

to the army lately serving in Holland, from lieutenant-general Sir James Pulteney, baronet, and, by order of his royal highness the commander in chief, transmitted by him to the right honourable Henry Dundas, one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state.

SIR, Swan Cutter, at Sea, Nov. 20.

I HAVE from time to time reported to you, for the information of his royal highness the commander in chief, the progress which had been made in the embarkation and departure of the British and Russian troops which were left under my command in the province of North Holland; and I am now happy to acquaint you, that the last of them embarked yesterday morning, when, the wind being fair, the whole of the ships of war and transports remaining in the Texel left that port.

Every thing belonging to the army was brought off, excepting a small proportion of damaged provisions, a few waggons, and above 300 draft horses of little value, for which there was no tonnage; of these the latter alone were saleable; but they bore so small a price, that I thought it better to distribute the whole to the magistrates of the different villages in and near which the army had been cantoned, to be delivered to any of the inhabitants who might have suffered from the inevitable consequences of war.

Several large Dutch Indiamen, and other ships, which it was impossible for us to remove in their present state, but which might have been fitted out as ships of war by the enemy, were completely disabled and rendered useless for any further purpose, through the exertions of a detachment of seamen, under the direction of captain Bovar. The desire of complying most strictly with the articles of the agreement entered into between his royal highness and general Brune prevented their being blown up, which could not have been done without endangering the navigation of the Nieuve Diep.

Vice-admiral Dickson, as well as myself, made it our study to comply in this, as in every other instance, with the articles of the agreement; and I must do the French general the justice to say, that he seemed actuated by the same spirit.

Previous to quitting the Helder, I had, in obedience to his royal highness's instructions, discharged every just demand of the inhabitants of the

country which has been occupied by the army; and I was happy to find that very few claims were brought forward beyond those which it was in my power to satisfy.

The embarkation of the troops, difficult from the multiplicity of the arrangements required, and sometimes arduous from the state of the weather, was carried on with the utmost zeal and activity by vice-admiral Dickson, and the officers and seamen under his command. I feel particularly indebted to captain Lawford, of his majesty's ship Romney, who was left on shore, and had the immediate direction of the embarkation, for his exertions and his attention to every branch of his majesty's service, and to captain Woodriffe, principal agent of the transport service, for his great zeal in the execution of the duties of that situation.

I have the honour to be, &c.

JAMES PULTENEY.

*The Hon. Col. Hope, Adj. Gen. &c.*

P. S. The three armed vessels have been left to cruize off the Texel, to give warning to any British ships of our having evacuated the port.

It was agreed by the French general, that if any should arrive previous to the expiration of the month, they should, as a matter of course, be allowed to depart.

*Supplement to the Account of the Armistice concluded between his Royal Highness the Duke of York and Gen. Brune, published in the Gazette of the 26th ult.*

GENERAL, Head-Quarters, Schagen-brug, Oct. 15.

THE late hour at which your letter reached me last night prevented my sending sooner to Alkmaar major-general Knox, the officer alluded to in my letter of yesterday's date. He is entirely in my confidence, and is fully authorised to treat and conclude with you on the subject respecting which he has received my instructions.

FREDERICK, Duke of York,

Commander in Chief of the combined English and Russian Army.

*To Gen. Brune, Commander in Chief, &c.*

Head-Quarters, Schagen-brug, Oct. 15.

BY virtue of the authority, and in obedience to the order of his royal highness the duke of York, commander in chief of the combined English and Russian army, major-general Knox will have the honour of communicating with general Brune, commander in chief of the French and Batavian army, and of stating to him,

That in consequence of the difficulties arising from the very unfavourable and unusual state of the weather at this season, we have judged it expedient to re-occupy the position of the Zype.

That in this situation, with cantonments amply adequate to the amount of our forces, having an uninterrupted and certain means of keeping up our communication with England, and masters as we are of the Helder, the Texel, the Zuider Zee, and the Ocean, it depends upon us either to await the period when a favourable change of weather and of circumstances may enable us to renew offensive operations, or to withdraw our army by degrees, and without risk from this country, retaining possession of such detached points as might be judged most favourable for annoying the enemy, or for securing real advantages to ourselves.

In the event of our recurring to this last-mentioned measure, it will become our duty to neglect no means which can contribute to the preservation of the brave troops entrusted to our care, and for this purpose (however distressing, however ruinous to the inhabitants and to the country, the alternative may be) we shall be compelled to avail ourselves of those dreadful expedients which it is in our power to adopt. Having perfectly at our disposal the sea-dykes, both towards the Ocean and the Zuider Zee, as well as the interior dykes, we should in that case be reduced to the terrible necessity of inundating the whole country of North Holland, and of adding to this calamity every destructive evil which must necessarily result from an attempt to force or interrupt our retreat. We should, under such circumstances, also be constrained to make use of the ample means we possess, of rendering the navigation of the Zuider Zee henceforth impracticable, by obstructing the Mars Diep, and destroying the Nieuve Diep,—works upon which so many years labour, and such immense sums, have been expended.

Our system of carrying on war having on all occasions been governed

by the most liberal principles, necessity, and the strongest sense of duty, could alone induce us to adopt a system repugnant to the sentiments which have ever directed the conduct of the English nation. From these considerations, and from our persuasion that general Brune and the Dutch people must be actuated by similar motives, and equally desirous to prevent an useless effusion of blood by the amicable arrangement of a point which is perhaps the object of both parties, and from our anxiety, in case of a different result, to stand justified to the whole universe, from whatever destruction may in consequence devolve upon this country, we propose and offer to general Brune, and to the Batavian republic, That the English and Russian troops shall evacuate before the end of November next, all the coasts, the islands, and the interior navigation of Holland, without committing any act detrimental to the great sources of its navigation, or laying the country under any inundations: for this purpose, we propose that a suspension of hostilities shall take place until the period above specified; that during this interval we shall remain in full possession of all the points, and of the whole extent of country we occupy at this moment, and that the line of the respective advanced posts shall also be that of separation between the two armies; and that this line shall not, under any pretence, be passed by the troops of either, even in the event of our chusing to retire from any part of our present position, or of our quitting it altogether;—that during the above-mentioned interval no interference shall be allowed, nor any objections be started, with respect to the conduct of either of the parties within the limits of their respective possessions; and that all the rights of war (every act of hostility excepted) shall continue mutually in force;—that we will grant to the persons and property of the inhabitants of the country occupied by us every protection consistent with discipline, in the circumstances under which we are placed, and all the advantages which the conduct generally observed by British troops entitles them to expect on such an occasion. If these proposals accord with the wishes, and are conformable to the intentions of general Brune, there can be no difficulty whatever in carrying them into execution in three days from the date hereof. By order of his royal highness the commander in chief,

H. TAYLOR, Sec.

## The FRENCH and BATAVIAN ARMIES.

EQUALITY. LIBERTY.

Head-Quarters at Alkmaar, the 15th Oct. 1799,
the 8th Year of the French Republic.

*Brune, General in Chief, to the Duke of York, Commander in Chief of the combined English and Russian Army.*

GENERAL,

Major-general Knox, who was instructed to confer with me on your part, upon the subject of a Note which he has delivered, signed by your secretary, will communicate my answer, contained in the explanatory Note.

CITIZEN BRUNE,
General in Chief of the combined French and Batavian Army.

Head-Quarters at Alkmaar, the 15th Oct. 1799,
the 8th Year of the French Republic.

THE duke of York, commander in chief of the English army, proposes that a cessation of hostilities shall take place, in consequence of the approach of the inclement season. He promises to withdraw from the Batavian territory, between the present period and the end of November next, the whole army under his command; and consents that no damage shall be committed, no sluices opened, or dykes broken up, on condition of his retreat not being molested by the French and Batavian army. These motives would not have been brought forward by the duke of York, if he had considered himself possessed of means sufficient for advancing into the country; for, in that case, he would have had the facility of extending his quarters, of procuring subsistence, and, in short, of placing himself beyond the reach of the inconveniences arising from the unfavourable season. We ought consequently to look to advantages in an arrangement, proportionate to the insufficiency of the forces under his command. The terms proposed by the duke of York contain nothing but what would be the necessary result of a cessation of hostilities. It can scarcely be supposed that the duke of York will cause the dykes to be destroyed, the country to be inundated, and the villages to be burnt, for the mere purpose of committing such acts of violence,—as such conduct

would be contrary to the laws of war, and must draw upon him the reprobation of all Europe, and of his own nation. It appears therefore evident, that the duke of York would confine himself to such measures as might be useful to his own army, or detrimental to ours; but we look upon such accidents as inseparable from a state of war. No object of advantage to us appears therefore to result from the proposals which have been made. Since, however, the sufferings of humanity come under the consideration of the duke of York, general Brune is ready to meet this honourable feeling, and, in doing so, declares that the following stipulations on which he offers to consent to a suspension of hostilities are so obviously just, that he cannot depart from them.

ART. I. The Batavian fleet, which was surrendered to admiral Mitchel by admiral Storey, shall be restored to the Batavian republic, with its stores and crews. In case the duke of York shall not be invested with sufficient powers to comply with this article, his royal highness shall engage to obtain from his court an equivalent compensation.

Art. II. Fifteen thousand prisoners of war, French and Batavians, detained in England, shall be conditionally released and sent home. The mode of selection, and the proportion for each country, to be settled between the governments of the two republics. The Batavian admiral De Winter shall be considered as exchanged. This article shall in no degree prejudice or interfere with the cartel of exchange at present established.

Art. III. The batteries and fort of the Helder shall be restored in the condition in which they were found at the period of the invasion of the English and Russian army. An officer of artillery shall be sent to the Helder by general Brune, to see that this article is complied with.

Art. IV. The army under the command of the duke of York shall within forty-eight hours evacuate the position of the Zype; its advanced posts shall be withdrawn to the height of Callants-oog. The French and Batavian army shall preserve the positions it occupies at present, taking up however its advanced posts at Petten, Crabendam, Schagen-brug, and Colhorn. It shall have merely a vidette at the height of Callants-oog.

Art. V. The troops composing the English and Russian army shall be embarked successively, and as speedily as possible. All the British shipping shall quit the Texel, and all the English and Russian troops be withdrawn from the seas, coasts, and islands of the Batavian republic, be-

fore the 20th of November next, and shall not damage the great sources of navigation, or occasion any inundation in the country.

Art. VI. All ships of war or other vessels, having on board reinforcements for the combined English and Russian army, shall put to sea as soon as possible, without landing the same.

Art. VII. To guarantee the execution of these articles, hostages shall be given by the duke of York, to be selected amongst the officers of rank in his army.

By order of general Brune, commander in chief of the combined French and Batavian army.

VEVRY, Sec.

GENERAL, Head-Quarters, Schagen-brug, Oct. 17.

I SEND back major-general Knox with my answers to the explanatory note which he has delivered to me in your name. He is fully authorised to conclude, on my part, upon every point which relates to the subject of his mission.

FREDERICK, Duke of York,
Commander in Chief of the combined English and Russian Army.

*To Gen. Brune, Commander in Chief, &c.*

Head-Quarters, Schagen-brug, Oct. 17.

HIS royal highness the duke of York, commander in chief of the combined English and Russian army, proposed to general Brune, commander in chief of the French and Batavian army, an arrangement, equally to the advantage of both parties, originating in his desire to prevent the farther effusion of blood, and to preserve this country from the terrible effects of an inundation, as also from the destruction of the best of its ports, involving the total ruin of the principal channel of its interior navigation and commerce.—In answer to which general Brune observes, that he cannot imagine his royal highness will recur to measures not less revolting to humanity than repugnant to the character of the British nation, and to the general feeling of all Europe.—Devastation or destruction is certainly incompatible with the character and with the uniform conduct of the English nation; and as little do either accord with the disposition

of his royal highness the commander in chief; but there are duties peremptorily prescribed by the nature of particular situations, the odium of which must fall, not on those who execute, but on such as render the measures necessary, by rejecting the conditions of a just and honourable agreement. Deeply impressed with what is due to his country on the one hand, and to the claims of humanity on the other,—persuaded, likewise, that general Brune is equally guided by these sentiments, his royal highness has taken his proposals into consideration, and consents to abide by the agreement as it stands in the answers annexed to the different articles.

Major-general Knox, who is charged therewith, is authorised to sign and conclude this agreement, as well as to arrange any points of detail which may arise out of it. It being the duty of every officer commanding his Britannic Majesty's troops to make an exact report of whatever relates to his command, his royal highness the duke of York will, of course, lay before the British government every communication which has taken place between his royal highness and general Brune.

*Articles proposed in the Explanatory Note from General Brune.*

Answer to Art. I.—His royal highness will on no account treat upon this article, the execution of which, it must be evident to both parties, is impossible.

Answer to Art. II.—This demand appears to rest upon a supposed loss the combined army must sustain should its embarkation be resolved upon. It is by no means admitted that such would be the result; but as, in the event of the army's carrying on the campaign during the winter, the loss of a certain number of men must naturally be expected, his royal highness, influenced by this consideration, agrees to promise, in the name of the British government, that 5000 French and Batavian prisoners, the proportion of each to be regulated according to the terms of the article, shall be unconditionally released and sent home. Nothing further in this article can be agreed to.

Answer to Art. III.—The fort and batteries of the Helder will be left, generally considered, in an improved state. None of the Dutch artillery shall be carried away.

Answer to Art. IV.—On no account will it be consented that the army shall be withdrawn from the position of Zype, until every preparation requisite to render its embarkation easy and complete can be arranged at the Helder. It must be evident, that it cannot be desirable that any delay should take place in this respect. No addition shall be made to the works at the Zype, and persons properly authorised shall be admitted from time to time to ascertain and report upon this point for the satisfaction of general Brune; but no armed detachment will be permitted to approach, or to take post, nearer than they already are to our position. It must be further understood, that, on his part, general Brune will not allow any approaches or offensive preparations to be carried on, and that the French and Batavian army shall remain in the line of advanced posts which it occupies at present, which shall also be the line of separation between the two armies respectively.

Answer to Art. V.—The embarkation of the English and Russian troops will take place with all possible expedition; and at this season of the year any unnecessary delay will naturally be avoided as much as possible; but to prevent any difficulty or future discussion upon this point, it is proposed, that the suspension of hostilities shall be limited to the end of the month of November next, in order to secure sufficient time for the complete evacuation of the country, which, however, shall be effected sooner if practicable.

Answer to Art. VI.—The ships of war, or other vessels immediately expected with reinforcements for the combined English and Russian army, or which may hereafter be sent, shall not land their troops, but shall put to sea again as soon as possible.

Answer to Art. VII.—Hostages shall be reciprocally given, to be selected among the officers of rank of the two armies, to guarantee the execution of this agreement.

By order of his royal highness the duke of York, commander in chief of the combined English and Russian army.

H. TAYLOR, Sec.

SIR, Alkmaar, Oct. 17.

I HAVE seen general Brune, and have talked over with him fully all the articles on which I have received his royal highness's instructions. I have

found the greatest disposition on the part of general Brune to enter fairly on the subject. In respect to the essential article of the fleet, general Brune has already received a letter from the Dutch directory, to make the delivery of it a *sine qua non*; and I much doubt whether there is any chance of his being brought to give way on this point, at least without some assurance that his royal highness would forward the demand to his court. In respect to the other very essential article of the prisoners, after much conversation, I brought the general to lower his demands to 8000 men, beyond which he cannot recede. Every other point can be amicably settled. I beg his royal highness's orders on these points; and I hope to receive them by noon to-morrow.

I have the honour to be, &c.

J. KNOX.

*To the Hon. Col. Hope, Adj. Gen. &c.*

SIR, Head-Quarters, Schagen-brug, Oct. 18.

HIS royal highnesss the commander in chief, in his instructions to you of yesterday's date, having declared that every paper or proposal from general Brune, and consequently *that* relative to the whole Dutch fleet, will of course be regularly transmitted to England, can give no other answer than what you are already empowered to make: viz. "His royal highness will, on no account, treat upon this article, the execution of which, it must be evident to both parties, is impossible." If general Brune expects any thing further to pass on that subject, the sooner the negociation is put an end to the better. In regard to the number of prisoners, if *every other point is clearly* and *immediately decided upon*, his royal highness may be induced to relax; *if not*, it is unnecessary to enter further into the subject; and he directs you to finish the negociation.

I have the honour to be, &c.

ALEX. HOPE,

*The Hon. Major Gen. Knox, &c.* Dep. Adj. Gen.

SIR, Alkmaar, Oct. 18, 3 P. M.

I HAVE received your letter, and have the pleasure to inform you that every thing is settled to his royal highness's satisfaction; in consequence

of which general Brune has given immediate orders to all his posts that hostilities shall cease, and that no further work of any kind shall be carried on: he requests that his royal highness will be pleased to give similar orders without loss of time, as a report has just been made that some houses have been set on fire on the road leading to Herenhuysen.

I have the honour to be, &c.

J. KNOX.

*To the Hon. Col. Hope, Adj. Gen. &c.*

P. S. General Brune has sent off to Amsterdam, to direct that nothing hostile shall be attempted on the part of the flotilla there fitted out; and he begs that similar notice may be sent to admiral Mitchel.

# OFFICIAL DUTCH ACCOUNTS,

## RELATIVE TO THE BATAVIAN FLEET.

Hague, 23d Fructidor.

*The Executive Directory of the Batavian Republic to the First Chamber of the Representative Body of the Batavian People.*

CITIZEN Representatives, After having last night informed your president, and this morning early your assembly, of the appearance of an English fleet off the Texel Roads, we have deliberated more maturely on the reply which the commander in chief of the republican fleet shall give to the letter and the summons of admiral Duncan, to which he has merely sent a provisional reply; in consequence of which we have commissioned the agent of marine to reply to the said letter and summons in the manner which you will see by the extract of our resolutions, which we join to this message, not being willing to fail in giving information.

Health and respect, E. EMERINS.
By order of the Directory,
HUTMAN.

On board his Britannic Majesty's ship Kent,
20th August.

SIR,

MORE than 20,000 men being at this moment debarked at the Helder, who will be followed by many others, you have now a favourable opportunity of manifesting your zeal for your legitimate sovereign the prince of Orange, by declaring for him, together with all the ships which may choose to follow your example. All those who shall declare for him in like manner, hoisting the Orange flag, shall be considered as allies and friends. As soon as I shall have made Sir Ralph Abercrombie, commander in chief of the British land forces, and admiral Mitchel, who commands the naval part of the expedition under me, acquainted with

this declaration, all the ships which are desirous of so doing, may come out and join me; they will be treated with the most sincere friendship as allies, and will be received in the bosom of the English fleet, with which they may remain until they shall receive the commands of the prince of Orange, with respect to the conduct which they are to pursue.

I have the honour to be, &c.

DUNCAN.

The bearer of this letter, captain ——, is commissioned to assure the officers of the Batavian fleet of my esteem for them.

DUNCAN.

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*The Commander in Chief of the Batavian Fleet to Admiral Duncan, Commander of the English Fleet in the North Sea.*

On board the Washington, Texel Road,
August 22, 1799.

ADMIRAL,

I SHOULD be unworthy of lord Duncan, and should forfeit the esteem of every honest man, were I to accept the proposal you make me. I know the duty which I owe the flag I obey, and to my country: were your force double, my sentiments would still remain the same. Your lordship may therefore expect from me a defence worthy of my nation, and of my honour. I shall, however, immediately send your summons to my government; and if you please to await its determination, I will inform you of the result.

Be assured, my lord,

That I am, with esteem,

STORY.

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*Extract of the Register of the Deliberations of the Executive Directory of the Batavian Republic, 23d August, five o'clock in the morning.*

THE executive directory having read an address, written by the minister of the marine this morning at a quarter before three o'clock, in

which he states the appearance of the English fleet before the Texel, and the summons of admiral Duncan, decree, that the agent of the marine shall be commanded to make, in the name of the chief of the fleet, the following answer to admiral Duncan.

" That the English admiral had formed an erroneous supposition in his letter of the 20th of this month, which he addressed to him, in which he states that general Abercrombie had disembarked with 20,000 men at the Helder; that dispositions had been made to make him repent of his enterprise; and that even if the disembarkation had succeeded, that would not induce the brave and faithful commanders of the Batavian ships to surrender to a hostile power, as they are disposed to put in force every means of defence to protect the Batavian flag, and from which they expect the happiest result. The answer already given by the commander of the Batavian fleet, and from which lord Duncan might have anticipated the present, with which it agrees in substance, would have been deemed sufficient, if the conduct of one of the officers who brought the summons did not deserve to be reported to lord Duncan, in the persuasion that it will not only be disavowed by him, but severely punished—that officer having taken advantage of the opportunity to put into the hands of one of the Batavian officers, who fell in his way, a pretended proclamation in Dutch and English, the object of which was to seduce and alienate, if possible, the minds of the inhabitants of the Batavian republic from the confidence which they repose in their constituted authorities; that this perfidious conduct having been discovered after the departure of the English officer, it was not possible to seize him as a seducer of the military; that it was expected no such proceedings in future should take place, as otherwise those who should behave in a manner so inconsistent with the laws of war must be answerable for the fatal consequences; that henceforth no flags of truce could be received, the object of which was merely to bring summonses and messages, which patriotism requires should be rejected. In future, therefore, those who bring these proclamations will be considered not as the bearers of a flag of truce, but as prisoners of war."

*Letter from Rear-Admiral Story to the Minister of Marine of the Batavian Republic.*

Washington, at Anchor under the Vlieter, Aug. 31.

PENETRATED by the most oppressing sensations of despair and contempt, I take up my pen to give you an account of the most fatal event that ever will appear in the annals of history. In my letter of the 27th instant, I informed you that the evacuation of the Helder and its batteries would oblige me to effect the last retreat that was left, and which you had pointed out in your letter of the 23d. Not before the English had appeared on the batteries of Revolution and Union, I made the signal for weighing anchor, and for sailing, which was effected on the 28th, in the morning. At that instant the Orange flag was flying from all the steeples of the Texel, the Helder, and from the batteries. This extraordinary circumstance effected very critical sensations on board of several ships; but, notwithstanding this, our retreat was effected, and at eleven o'clock in the morning we cast anchor before the Vlieter, the wind preventing us to enter it, and to take the intended station. On the 29th, at day-break, we discovered, that already a great part of the enemy's frigates and transports had cast anchor in the roads of the Texel; the wind was then north, which led me to conclude that the enemy's men of war were not yet able to sail up the Texel. I resolved, therefore, to return with my whole force to the roads of the Texel, to drive from thence, or to destroy, all the enemy's ships which I should find there; but the wind blowing strong from the north, my plan became impracticable; I ordered the fleet to cast anchor again, and resolved to sail to the roads with the next tide. On the evening of the same day a spirit of insubordination and mutiny appeared amongst the crews of several ships. At nine o'clock I was informed that the people of the Washington refused, in a mass, to go to their birth, saying, They were sure that ship would be blown up in the night. Some of the mutineers, armed with sabres and pistols, made themselves masters of the powder magazine, and would not suffer any one to approach it. Others prevented the few well-disposed to go to their birth. Captain Van De Capelle, with all his officers, immediately went between decks, and endeavoured to bring the mutineers back to their duty, with resolute countenances, and using every means of persuasion. I ordered all the subal-

tern officers to appear before me, and reminded them of their duty, and of the oath they had sworn to the republic. They all assured me they were unacquainted with the causes of this mutiny, and saw no possibility of opposing it. Captain Van De Capelle succeeded so far between decks, that the whole of the crew went to the cabin, those excepted who guarded the powder magazine. At that moment I would have employed force, had I not been persuaded that it would be in vain to oppose the whole mass. The same afternoon I also received several accounts, that on board most of the largest vessels disturbances had broke out. Captain Van Braam and De Yong assured me, that for some hours they had found the spirit of mutiny increasing so much in their respective crews, that little or nothing could be expected of them, should an engagement take place. On board the Ruiter it was the same: captain Huis had already been compelled to confine two of his quarter-masters on account of their mutinous conversation. Captain Kolf freely declared that his crew were so disposed, that not a single shot could be expected to be fired from his ship. Thus elapsed the first day, and the night of the 29th. On the morning of the 30th, we saw the English appearing in the roads of the Texel, partly directing their course towards the Vlieter. This division consisted of eleven ships of the line, five or six large frigates, and four corvettes;—underneath you will find an exact list of them. They carried what is called the prince's flag. On the approach of this fleet, mutinous movements took place on board the Washington, and, as I afterwards learned, on board several other ships. This moment was the most painful to me that ever I experienced. A hostile fleet, nearly double the strength of my own, sailed against me before the wind, and at a time when I was uncertain whether one of my ships would fire a shot. Forced, by this disagreeable circumstance, I resolved to send captains Van De Capelle and De Yong, in a sloop, to meet the English admiral, to represent to him in substance—that we were at our last retreat, and were determined to defend our ships to the utmost; that he would, therefore, not gain any thing by his attack, but the destruction of a fleet, which, according to his own declaration, he wished to spare, and to treat in the most friendly manner; that we proposed to him to cast anchor at a sufficient distance from our fleet, to enable us to wait the resolution of our government, concerning our present situation. My

object in sending this message was to gain time. I made signal to our ships to prepare for an engagement, but this moment perfectly convinced me of what I might expect. When the alarm was beaten on board the Washington, the whole of the crew, the officers, and a few of the men excepted, instead of instantly rpairing to their guns, went to different parts of the ship, loudly exclaiming—That not one of them would fight for a moment, nor make the least preparation for it! Accompanied by captain Van Braam, who happened to be on board the Washington, at that time, I went among them; we first used persuasions, and afterwards the severest threats, to induce the mutineers to go to their guns, but in vain. All at once, with repeated huzzas, &c. they ran to the guns, extracted the balls, and threw them overboard, and also a great number of cartridges. A few brave men, who had taken possession of two guns in the hold, were driven away by force, and orders were given, under the severest threats, not to undertake any thing for the defence of the ship. From some of the other ships I also heard, at different times, the cries of mutiny. At that moment captains Van De Capelle and De Yong had approached the English fleet, which had cast anchor at some distance. On their return, the two admirals brought me a letter from the English admiral (the summons, which we have already laid before our readers), telling me, at the same time, that, with great difficulty, they had obtained an hour for me to consider about an answer, and that two English officers had come with them to carry it. Previous to this, I had ordered all the commanding officers of our fleet on board of my ship, to consult upon our situation, and what we were to do. I was convinced that not a single shot would be fired from the Washington; captain Kolf declared that the same was the case with the Utrecht; captains Van Braam and De Yong stated, that their crews refused to fight; all the other captains complained more or less, excepting captain Van Senden, who said that his crew were, at the present moment, in the best order, but that he could not expect any thing from them, if the admiral's ship made no defence. The Batavier, the ship which he commanded, was next to the admiral's. Under these circumstances, and convinced that we could, at the utmost, only fire a few shots upon the enemy, who was our superior in point of number, it was soon determined what resolution we should take. We agreed unanimously to strike the Batavian flag, and to declare

myself, and all the officers, prisoners of war, without going into detail, upon the assurances of friendship made to us, or hoisting any other flag. I then sent an answer to the English admiral (which we have likewise already given). The two English officers, who had arrived along with captains Van De Capelle and De Yong, remained on board the Washington from that moment to this day. In the evening, at their desire, the *ci-devant* prince's flag was hoisted. To-day they demanded that we should salute the fleet, by firing some guns; but this I refused, declaring that we could not be considered otherwise than as prisoners of war, and therefore could not be obliged to any service. What will become of us with this extraordinary manner of carrying on war, and of taking of ships, I cannot conceive. We must wait the result of this, as well as of the whole business. Meanwhile you can have no idea of the disagreeable situation of myself and my officers. The spirit of mutiny on board the fleet is not yet quelled. This morning, among other circumstances, we were informed that the crew of the Ambuscade frigate had proceeded to the most unexampled excesses, and were not ashamed to commit the barbarous action of throwing a man overboard, who was known as an advocate of the cause of liberty, and that the officers were not able to do any thing for the safety of this unfortunate man. Once more, judge from all this how little I could expect to be able to do with this traitorous and inhuman set! Judge what must be my present situation! I shall endeavour to give you still more circumstantial accounts.

Health and respect.

S. STORY, Rear-Admiral.

# PROCLAMATIONS

## ADDRESSED TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED NETHERLANDS.

*Proclamation by his Excellency Sir Ralph Abercrombie, K. B. &c.*

LIEUTENANT-general Sir Ralph Abercrombie, being intrusted by his majesty the king of Great Britain, the ancient and good ally of the United Provinces, with the command of a body of British troops to be employed in delivering these provinces from the degrading tyranny of the French republic, has received his majesty's commands to make this public and explicit declaration of the intentions of his majesty, and of the august sovereigns who are united with him in this great work. It is not as enemies, but as friends and deliverers, that the British troops enter into the territory of the United Provinces. It is to rescue the inhabitants of this once free and happy country from the oppression under which they now groan; to protect their religion from the intolerant and persecuting spirit of infidelity and atheism; to deliver their civil government from the despotism of a rapacious anarchy; and to re-establish their ancient liberty and independence, by restoring to them the benefits of that constitution, for which, under the auspices of the illustrious House of Orange, their ancestors fought and conquered, and in the enjoyment of which they so long flourished, in friendship and alliance with Great Britain. For this object, and under the same auspices, his majesty doubts not that the ancient valour and energy of the Dutch nation will be now exerted with the same spirit and success. The hand of Providence has already shown itself in the deliverance of a great part of Europe from those miseries in which the arms and principles of French republicanism have for a time been permitted to involve it. The forces which his majesty has confided to lieutenant-general Abercrombie, and those which his majesty's allies have destined to the same object, are abundantly sufficient for the protection of those who shall stand forth in the cause of their country. It is principally by the efforts of the Dutch nation that these sovereigns wish the deliverance of the republic to be accomplished. In the steps which are to lead to this salutary end, his majesty earnestly recommends

to all the inhabitants of these provinces union and concord, forgiveness of the past, and a determined resolution to protect, against every tumultuous or vindictive excess, the lives and properties of their fellow-citizens, even of those whose errors or misconduct have contributed to the calamities of their country, but whom the irresistible conviction of experience shall now unite in this great cause. On these principles, and in this spirit, the British army will conduct itself amongst a people whom Englishmen have long been accustomed to regard as their friends and allies: but if from henceforth there shall be found any Dutchmen, who, by their adherence to the oppressors of their country, at the moment when, by the blessing of God, its deliverance is at hand, shall show themselves unworthy of the blessings of tranquillity, of lawful government, and of religious and civil liberty, those, and those alone, his majesty's troops will consider and treat as decided and irreconcileable enemies, not only to his majesty and to his allies, but to the prosperity of their own country, and to the general interests and safety of Europe.

RALPH ABERCROMBIE, Lieutenant-General.
FREDERIC MAITLAND,
Secretary to the Commander in Chief.

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*The Prince of Orange's Proclamation.*

DEAR COUNTRYMEN,

THE long wished-for moment, when you are at last to be delivered from so many calamities, under which you have suffered for more than four years past, is, we hope, arrived; and we now enjoy the satisfaction again to address you under that pleasing prospect. It would be superfluous to enumerate the different hardships under which you have groaned ever since the violence you have suffered in consequence of the French invasion, and the events which have followed it. If cruel experience has made you feel them but too severely, and if our ardent wishes could have been sooner fulfilled, you would have been relieved long ago from that intolerable burden. We have been but too long obliged to confine ourselves to the deploring your fate in silence, without having it in our power to alter it. At last that time is come. His majesty, the

king of Great Britain, moved by his affection and friendship towards the republic of the United Provinces, and pitying your misfortunes, has taken the generous resolution, as soon as the general circumstances of Europe have allowed it, to employ, in concert with his allies, vigorous measures for your deliverance. The military force which is now sent for that purpose is to be followed by still more numerous troops. The object of this expedition is made known to you, in the name of his Britannic majesty, by the commander in chief of the first body of troops which is to open this glorious career. Those troops do not come to you as enemies, but as friends and deliverers, in order to rescue you from the odious oppression under which you are held by the French government, and by the French troops, and to restore you to the enjoyment of your religion and liberty, those invaluable blessings for which, with the Divine assistance, you and our own ancestors fought and conquered. Hesitate not, therefore, b rav nhabitants of the United Provinces, to meet and to assist your deliverers. Receive them among you as friends and protectors of the happiness and welfare of your country. Let every difference of political sentiments and opinions vanish before this great object. Do not suffer the spirit of party, nor even the sense of the wrongs you may have suffered, to induce you to commit any acts of revenge or persecution. Let your hands and your hearts be united in order to repel the common enemy, and to re-establish the liberty and independence of our common country. Let your deliverance be as much as possible your own work. You see already, and you will experience it still more in future, that you may depend upon being vigorously and powerfully assisted. As soon as the first efforts which are making towards your delivery shall have acquired some consistency, our dearly beloved son, the hereditary prince of Orange, who is in possession of our entire confidence, and is deserving of yours, and who is perfectly well acquainted with our intentions, will join you, put himself at your head, and, following the steps of our illustrious ancestors, spare neither his property nor his life, in order to assist with you, and for your sake, in bringing this great undertaking to a successful issue. We ourselves also will then, as soon as circumstances shall allow it, proceed to join you. And as we have always considered our own happiness and welfare as in-

separably connected with that of our dear country, we will then, after having seen your laws and privileges restored, and yourselves re-established in the possession of those benefits which belong to a free people under a lawful government, make our greatest and most heart-felt satisfaction consist (under the Divine Blessing) in the advancement of the public good, and of that prosperity and welfare which formerly made our once happy country an object of admiration to the surrounding nations.

Done in the palace of Hampton-Court, the 28th of July, 1799.

W. PRINCE OF ORANGE.

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## THE HEREDITARY PRINCE OF ORANGE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED NETHERLANDS.

*We William Frederick, Hereditary Prince of Orange, Nassau, &c.*

PROVIDENCE having crowned with the happiest success the endeavours of the allied powers who have taken up arms in defence of their religion and independence; the moment being at last arrived, when, with the powerful assistance of his Britannic majesty, and of his allies, our country will at length be liberated from the yoke under which it has groaned for four years; and his highness the prince of Nassau Orange, hereditary stadtholder, governor, captain-general, and admiral of the United Netherlands, as well as hereditary captain and admiral-general of the Union, &c. our father, having, in a proclamation, dated at Hampton-Court the 28th of July, 1799, already declared his sentiments and intentions with which he is animated towards the good inhabitants of the state:—We invite you, empowered and ordered by our father, by a decree dated December 19, 1798, and agreeably to his intentions, to assist us in gaining the object by which we are animated, namely, the re-establishment of religion and liberty, according to the principles of our legal constitution. Instead of the long slavery which has hitherto oppressed you, that true liberty is again offered to you, which alone is able to promote your happiness. You may rest assured that you have to expect the protection of the laws, and freedom of persons and pro-

perty, if you offer no resistance to your deliverers, but assist them as much as lies in your power. Be therefore united, lay aside all discord and party spirit, abstain from revenge, endeavour to maintain tranquillity and order, and be persuaded, that, on our parts, we are animated by the same sentiments, and that it is our most ardent desire to awaken peace and harmony among the inhabitants, to establish which we shall do every thing in our power. We promise to all those who shall return to their duty, and assist in liberating our dear country, that their sentiments and actions during the revolution shall be forgotten, and that they shall receive protection; those, in particular, who have been in any official capacity, have nothing to fear upon that head, except they have neglected their duty, or been guilty of crimes which are considered as such in every country, and are punishable before every impartial judge. All inhabitants may therefore rely upon perfect security, and we expect that no opposition will be made to our endeavours. Should, unexpectedly, the contrary be the case, every one will have to ascribe the disagreeable consequence to his own conduct, as such persons will experience the rigour of the laws. We caution likewise all present rulers, and public functionaries, not to offend any one belonging to the ancient legal government, or who shall be known as a partisan of the house of Orange, as they will have to answer for their safety with their persons and property.

It being also necessary, to prevent anarchy, immediately to establish a government, we invite and request all those, who, before the invasion of the seven provinces and of the country of Drenthe by the French, have been employed in the departments of police, finance, and justice, immediately to take upon themselves the provisional administration of those departments, till a government shall be properly re-established; and also to put again into activity the administration of government of towns and villages, with exception of those who have had a share in the revolution, or who have made any declaration for supporting that illegal form of government, or given evident proofs of their attachment to it.

We likewise order all public functionaries of the present illegal government to continue in the exercise of their duties till the provisional government shall be established; enjoining them, however, not to em-

bezzle any money, or secrete documents or papers. We particularly forbid all receivers to make any payments to them whatever, and they shall be answerable with their property.

Concerning the United States in general, we have thought proper, till the proper government shall be re-established, to appoint a provisional government, consisting of able persons from the respective provinces, which we shall appoint by letters, to represent the states of the United Netherlands.

Lastly, we order the army and navy to contribute to the re-establishment of the legal government, to maintain order and tranquillity, and to obey the commands of the officers nominated by his highness. The officers in the service of the illegal government, who shall assist in effecting this, shall be particularly remembered.

WILLIAM FREDERICK, Hereditary Prince of Orange.

THE END.

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